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President's Arms Proposal 'Overtly Cautious'

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[By TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—President Bush supported the project to reduce the U.S. forces by 25 percent over the next five years. However, some participants in the debate on the military budget in the congress said that in the present conditions, when tension in international relations has eased, the measures planned by the U.S. Administration are overtly cautious.

President Bush spoke in Aspen, Colorado, immediately after the House Armed Services Committee decided to appropriate for the military needs 24 billion dollars less than the Pentagon requested. Congress demanded that the administration discontinue the programme to manufacture B-2 aircraft bombers, cut appropriations for the "star wars" programme by almost half and halt the production of mobile missiles.

Although recognising that the cold war is nearing an end, Bush came out against recommendations by the congressional committee on the U.S. strategic forces.

In his speech in Aspen, the President insisted that the programme to manufacture 75 B-2 bombers be continued, that the construction of ten "Trident" submarines, each with 288 nuclear warheads, be completed and that the programme for new, smaller intercontinental ballistic missiles be implemented.

Despite the fact that the Soviet Union decided to terminate the production of mobile missiles as of January 1, 1991, Bush stated the U.S. intention to continue producing the powerful rail mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles be implemented.

The President's speech indicates that Washington intends to continue with the "star wars" programme and to deploy the ABM system, which is senseless from the military viewpoint, when it is ready.

One gets the impression that the U.S. President has not abandoned plans to involve the Soviet Union in a race of costly space arms, which could negatively affect the pace of the Soviet Union's economic progress.

The intention to cut the U.S. Armed Forces is motivated by the country's balance of payments deficit and congressional pressure. Nevertheless, a few years ago proposals to cut U.S. Armed Forces by 25 percent over five years would have been viewed by experts as futile fantasies.

In view of changes taking place in the world the President's programme advanced in Aspen could be more radical. But even in its present form, it is heartening evidence that the dated concepts of the cold war era are being reassessed in Washington.

ABM Designer Sees 'Squandering' of Resources

PM0508192290 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Aug 90 Second Edition p 4

[Interview with "Hero of Socialist Labor Grigoriy Kisunko, designer of the first Soviet ABM systems," forming part of full-page feature prepared by V. Abramov; place and date of interview not given; published under the general heading "Money for Defense": "Four Monologues on the Secrets of 'Closed' Science"—first two paragraphs are an editorial introduction]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Our interlocutor today is Grigoriy Vasilyevich Kisunko, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Hero of Socialist Labor, holder of a Lenin Prize, and general designer of the first ABM defense systems in the USSR.

Kisunko's opinions do not claim to offer all-embracing conclusions: He only talks about what he himself knows well, he only talks about one sector—albeit a major one—of the military-industrial complex. But his view is interesting precisely because it is an insider's view of our secret structures. Furthermore Grigoriy Vasilyevich's monologues—dramatic, sincere, full of heartfelt concern for the fate of scientific ideas—in themselves provide food for thought.

[Kisunko] [passage omitted] The absurd "projects of the century" show the effects of mutual cover-ups by people who realize that money has been wasted. In the presence of the top bosses, the clients praise the contractors, the contractors praise the clients, and everyone in unison praises the research itself. This general choral harmony ensures that the product is accepted, if not into the armory, then at least for experimental operation.

A typical example is over-the-horizon radar stations. The idea of these—to record ballistic missile launches even on the territory of another hemisphere, with the help of short-wave radiation—is invalid in the first place. Even people who are not professionals know that short waves, reflected repeatedly from the earth and the ionosphere, produce a signal that is severely distorted and dirty. The pulse produced by a rocket flare is swamped by interference.

But adventurists, seizing on this idea that was slipped in from abroad, secured the creation of three over-the-horizon radar stations—in the vicinity of Nikolayev, Chernobyl, and Komsomolsk-na-Amure. More than R1 billion was spent and huge installations were built—hundreds of meters in length and height. And the result?

Curious, to put it mildly. The over-the-horizon radar "fans," finding out in advance from the press or through other channels the date and time of a launch from U.S. territory, waited for the scheduled hour and reported through the appropriate channels that they had recorded a launch. A little while later, NASA would announce officially that the launch had been delayed for such-and-such a reason. Nonetheless, to this day military units

are carrying out "experimental operation" of over-the-horizon stations. A cover story has emerged: We cannot detect launches of individual rockets, they say, but we will be able to detect mass launches. [passage omitted]

In the early seventies our people had the bright idea of "improving" the ABM defense system around Moscow on the model of the American "safeguard" system, which is designed to use nuclear charges to destroy missiles close to the targets it is protecting—superhardened ICBM launch silos. After all, a nuclear explosion nearby is nothing terrible for a silo! But in our country they decided to use a similar system to protect a city of 9 million people, and sited more than 50 nuclear antimissile missiles [protivorakety] on the perimeter of the belt highway. That is to say, they mined the capital in order to... defend it. And this in spite of the fact that as early as 1961 we had begun to use nonnuclear antimissile missiles on the testing range!

Incidentally, the "safeguardization" of the Moscow ABM defense remains a secret only to Soviet citizens. The Americans, not without irony, dubbed it the eighth wonder of the world. Mrs. Thatcher, in a Soviet television interview, was perplexed: "You are calling for a nuclear-free world, and yet you yourselves are installing new nuclear missiles under Moscow." What can you say? This whole story looks particularly ridiculous in contrast to the successful work in the United States on creating ABM defense systems with nonnuclear antimissile missiles.

The dilettantes managed to make a substantial "contribution" to the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems. With their consent, the Americans imposed on us a number of extremely disadvantageous provisions. For instance, the siting of missile attack early warning stations on the periphery of national territories. This forced the Soviet Union to relegate its radar stations to remote regions. Naturally, this "geography" required large additional expenditure.

And that is not all. After the adoption of the ABM Treaty we stopped the construction of a more economical and expedient radar warning system located around Moscow, although it was already half-built and was not contrary to the terms of the treaty. And so two 90-degree gaps were left in Moscow's ABM radar field [v radiolokatsionnom pole PRO Moskvy]: one in the direction of Western Europe, and the other to the northeast. We tried to close these gaps with the Krasnoyarsk and Mukachevo radar stations, but instead, these stations themselves ended up closed. Now it only remains to pin our hopes on a warm climate in international relations. But however warm the climate may be, are such gaps in our defenses tolerable?!

Another problem (characteristic, incidentally, not only of closed research) arises when very competent people place the interests of their own "firm" above the state's interests. They may be acting from good intentions: They are simply trying to introduce into production the brainchild of their own collectives, which often involve many thousands of people. But it is bad when the "brainchild" turns out to belong to yesterday's science and technology.

In this way they introduced in our country peripheral radar stations in the one-meter radio-frequency band, suppressing the production of more sophisticated decimeter-band stations. That is the price of a victory for someone's ambitions, backed by incompetence. [passage omitted]

It grieves me to see how indifference to the interests of the people and the state is gaining strength, while the decline in morality and incompetence lead to the squandering of our wealth. In the spheres I am familiar with, this is what happened with the dead-end avenue of work on creating a UHF weapon for ABM defense. This is based on the superficially tempting but technically absurd idea of destroying missile warheads not with antimissile missiles, but with focused radio waves in the ultrahigh frequency band.

I can understand the ignorant stubbornness and careerism of V.I. Markov, former deputy minister of the radio industry, who, having been given unlimited power in ABM defense and missile attack early warning systems, got the USSR involved in the Soviet "Safeguard," in over-the-horizon radar, and in UHF weapons. But how can you explain the willingness of a number of scientists to conduct research on this topic, spending hundreds of millions of rubles on this research? After all, a UHF weapon that really works requires gigantic energy capacities, thousands (!) of times in excess of the total capacities of all the electric power stations on the globe. To milk the treasury for such an absurd idea is simply criminal!

However, the state forked out the money for the research, and civil and military scientific research institutes shared out this money between them. The institutes' leaders initially misled the country, yielding to the temptation of benefits in terms of finance, expansions in staff, and the acquisition of equipment. Why did no one stop them? People were blinded by disinformation, even by pseudo-patents that arrived from abroad and were taken for the truth here. Years passed. In the event, instead of UHF weapons, we have nothing at all, at a cost of hundreds of millions of rubles.

I am sure that if such things had happened in the United States they would long ago have been the subject of special hearings in Congress. But what happens here?

I have also come across disinformation reaching the USSR about projects supposedly being implemented in the West. And this is the conclusion I have reached. Certain circles abroad skillfully manipulate the distortions in our organization of scientific and technical research and the production of weapons. They launch a ruinous canard in our direction, hoping that in the Soviet Union the mentality of the bureaucratic dilettante will

do its job: "The Americans are not fools, they know what they are doing." They also rely on the fact that there will without fail be some unprincipled person who takes up the rotten subject in the hope of being rewarded for scientific "audacity."

I do not expect the disinformation to stop arriving. So our task is to identify it in time and prevent the thoughtless squandering of public funds. If we can establish rigorous personal responsibility, if we finally put an end to voluntarism, obsessive campaigns, and nepotism, if we place defense spending under the rigorous—and expert—supervision of the Supreme Soviet, if we make the sphere of secret work a battlefield for scientific ideas, rather than individuals competing for a place in the sun—then no disinformation will have any effect. [passage omitted]

Petrov Recounts Chemical Disarmament Progress

LD0408164590

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1400 GMT on 4 August broadcasts a 10-minute talk by Colonel General Stanislav Veniaminovich Petrov, chief of the Chemical Troops of the USSR Ministry of Defense, who presents a textbook excursus into the history of chemical disarmament, with the USSR in the role of the protagonist.

In the mid-1980's, the USSR was the first to implement the idea of the new political thinking and put into practice the comprehensive concept of constructing a nuclear-free world by the year 2000. This concept is outlined in Gorbachev's statement of 15 January 1986. In 1987, the USSR suspended the manufacturing of chemical weapons.

Chemical security can be insured by concluding an international agreement on banning chemical weapons. With this aim, talks have been held in Geneva for more than a decade already. The talks have yielded some results. In addition, the USSR and the United States have started bilateral negotiations on chemical weapons. In September 1989, a memorandum was signed on understanding existing between the two sides regarding the bilateral experiment on the verification [kontrol] and exchange of data in connection with banning chemical weapons. In 1990, Gorbachev and Bush signed a bilateral agreement on the scrapping and suspension of chemical weapons.

A state program for the elimination of chemical weapons has been drawn up; 18 ministries—including the ministries of railways, of environment, and of health—took part in it. The program envisages the development of ecologically safe operations geared toward the elimination of the USSR's chemical weapons reserves.

Petrov expands on the importance and problem of the environment. He then proceeds to talk about the duties performed by chemical troops: insuring the defense of troops from the chemical or nuclear weapons used by the enemy, and radioactive intelligence. Petrov proceeds to praise the performance of the chemical troops when eliminating the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

Chemical Troops Chief on Destroying Weapons

PM0408165690 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[Interview with Colonel General S. Petrov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Chemical Troops, by Lieutenant Colonel V. Nikanorov for the USSR Defense Ministry Press Center, place and date not given: "Keeping the 'Chemical Dragon' Safely Under Lock and Key"—first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] At the Soviet-American summit meeting in Washington two months ago, alongside accords on nuclear and conventional arms reduction, a very important agreement was signed on an 80-percent reduction in chemical arms, to be followed by an accord on their complete destruction. A real prospect of ridding the earth of the terrible arsenals of "noiseless death" has arisen. The USSR and the United States bear their share of responsibility for the creation of such arsenals. It is noteworthy that it was these two powers that took on the responsibility for their reduction and subsequent elimination. And this task is by no means as simple as it may seem. The safe destruction of chemical munitions is a far more complex problem than their manufacture. Colonel General S. Petrov, chief of the USSR Defense Ministry Chemical Troops, tells us about this today.

[Nikanorov] First, Stanislav Veniaminovich, I would like to clarify this point: How large are our country's stocks of chemical weapons? Can you reveal this secret?

[Petrov] There is no secret about it. We announced at one time that our stocks total no more than 50,000 tonnes of chemical agents, by weight. Now I can give you a more specific figure—40,000 tonnes.

[Nikanorov] And what types of chemical agents are stored in our chemical arsenals?

[Petrov] I will simply list them according to the international nomenclature: VX, sarin, soman, mustard gas, lewisite, and a mixture of mustard gas and lewisite. That is a list of the substances that make up our chemical weapon stocks. I would like to take this opportunity to stress once again that they are stored exclusively on Soviet territory. The rumors spread by certain Western mass media to the effect that the Soviet Union supposedly has chemical weapons dumps on the territory of the GDR and other Warsaw Pact states are absolutely unfounded. Incidentally, the groundlessness of these fabrications was confirmed the other day by an authoritative group of Bundeswehr representatives who carried out an inspection of military stores and other facilities of the GDR National People's Army, using the most up-to-date West German equipment. No indications of the siting of chemical weapons on GDR territory were detected, nor could they have been.

[Nikanorov] Is the dissemination of these rumors associated with the recently commenced operation "Lindwurm" ("Dragon") to remove American chemical weapons from FRG territory?

[Petrov] I cannot rule out the possibility of a connection. The population's fear of the "chemical dragon" is great. According to available figures, some 102,000 American artillery shells containing combat chemical agents are stationed on West German soil. It is quite likely that the assertions of the existence of Soviet chemical weapons on German soil were supposed to provide a kind of propaganda cover for this operation and divert the attention of concerned FRG citizens from the American chemical arsenals which still actually exist for the time being on the banks of the Rhine.

[Nikanorov] But let us come back to our own chemical weapon stocks. How is it proposed to eliminate them?

[Petrov] We already have some experience in this sphere. From 1970 through the present day, some 438 tonnes of various types of chemical weapons have been destroyed. We have a certain quantity of mobile installations for the destruction of chemical agents (in 1987 they were demonstrated to the participants in the Geneva talks on banning chemical weapons at our military facility at Shikhany). With the help of such installations it is, of course, possible to destroy insignificant quantities of chemical weapons. But the full implementation of the task facing us undoubtedly requires the construction of permanent facilities in accordance with all the rules of environmental conservation.

At the end of last year a large-scale facility for the destruction of chemical weapons was ready to go into operation in the region of Chapayevsk. Modern technology was stipulated for this enterprise, technology whose ecological safety had been confirmed by the findings of interdepartmental and governmental commissions. But the publicity work patently was inadequate, and people were not convinced of the total safety of the facility. In view of the public protests, the Soviet Government decided to redesignate this facility as a production training combine for the training and education of cadres for chemical weapon destruction enterprises. Thus the Soviet Union does not yet have any permanent facilities of this type.

[Nikanorov] What is the solution?

[Petrov] One or even two or three departments is too narrow a framework to resolve this really statewide task. A draft State Program for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons in the USSR has now been drawn up. It is a substantial document of several volumes. It was drawn up with the participation of 18 ministries and departments, including, of course, the Defense Ministry. The draft, which takes account of our own and worldwide experience in creating such facilities, examines questions of ecologically safe techniques for the destruction of the chemical agents we have and argues the case for various possibilities for the siting and operation of such facilities. The last word here belongs, of course, to the Supreme Soviet. But in my view the most desirable option is to create one or two highly automated, safe, and ecologically clean facilities located in parts of the country where there is a low population density. According to preliminary estimates, about R3 billion will be needed. The Americans will be forced to bear comparable expenditure. Thus in the near future, despite some people's rather naive calculations, we can hardly expect a major financial benefit from disarmament. But in the long term this will indisputably be advantageous, and it is worth investing capital in it.

Very little time is left until the date agreed by the Soviet Union and the United States for starting the elimination of chemical weapons (no later than 31 December 1992). I would therefore like to submit a request to the Soviet state's highest legislative organ, to speed up the adoption of the State Program for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons in the USSR, and first and foremost to decide on the sites of construction of the facilities where these weapons will be destroyed.

[Berger] We keep talking about destruction. is it not possible to utilize the accumulated stocks of chemical weapons by converting them into, say, fertilizers?

[Petrov] In principle, of course, it is quite possible to use certain types of phosphor-containing chemical agents to produce fertilizers. But this product would be like gold dust in terms of its cost. And the quantity of possible output would be rather small on a countrywide scale, if you take into account the relatively small stocks of the original raw materials. Nor should the purely psychological aspect be disregarded. Given that in our day there is a widespread highly negative attitude even to comparatively harmless agricultural chemicals, people are hardly going to want to use fertilizers made from "chemical bombs." But the possibility of extracting arsenic from lewisite should probably not be disregarded. We are studying this problem carefully in conjunction with the Ministry of the Chemical and Petroleum Refining Industry.

[Berger] And finally, one last question, the answer to which concerns many people. How safe is the implementation of these plans?

[Petrov] This is one of the main problems, and we do not lose sight of it for a moment. Concern for safety in effect runs right through the draft State Program, which makes provision for major expert ecological reports and repeated monitoring of the reliability of the enterprises' work. Incidentally, a substantial safety margin is built into the designs of these facilities in the first instance. In the course of calculations, appropriate models were used to run through all kinds of situations, however improbable, such as an aircraft or, for instance, a meteorite falling on the site. Calculations confirm that even in such exceptional circumstances disastrous consequences

could certainly be avoided. Let me add that it is proposed to station not far from each such enterprise a suitably equipped and trained chemical troops subunit—a kind of "fire brigade," to monitor the facility's work and prevent incidents of any kind.

And in conclusion I would like to say that we intend to implement all measures to destroy chemical weapons in conditions of wide glasnost and openness. By the end of this year specific procedures should be formulated for carrying out mutual inspections of each side's fulfillment of its commitments. And not only the process of destruction of chemical weapons, but also the stockpiles stored in the dumps to await processing will be subject to verification. Naturally, we will provide wide information to the Soviet public on our activity in the destruction of chemical weapons. People will be able to see for themselves that the "chemical dragon" is safely under lock and key and that we will not let it break out.

TASS Reports Gremitskikh's 3 Aug Briefing

Shevardnadze Heads UN Group

LD0308131990 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will lead the Soviet delegation to the 45th United Nations General Assembly session opening in New York next month, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskhikh told a news briefing here today.

He said that the deputy leader of the delegation, whose make-up was endorsed by President Mikhail Gorbachev, will be Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy.

Other delegation members include Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, Kazakh Foreign Minister Akmaral Arystanbekova, Andrey Kozyrev, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Directorate for International Organisations, Sergey Batsanov, Soviet representative to the disarmament conference, and Valentin Lozinskiy, deputy Soviet ambassador to the United Nations.

German Election Proposal

LD0308134890 Moscow TASS in English 1331 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev from the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Press Center]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman today described as "a rather unexpected turn of events" the suggestion by East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere to hold all-German elections on October 14, 1990."

At a briefing here, Yury Gremitskikh pointed out that "a common understanding was reached by all the sides that the external aspects of German reunification must be settled before the official declaration of the establishment of a reunited Germany."

He recalled that the agreed upon date is November 19—the day on which a Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) sumit begins in Paris.

"The newly-suggested date, if accepted, could disorganise the already intense schedule of talks under the 'two plus four' formula," Gremitskikh emphasised.

Soviet Citizens in Kuwait

LD0308163590 Moscow TASS in English 1523 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will meet in Moscow today, a Soviet spokesman told a briefing here today.

Yuriy Gremitskikh said that Baker would make a brief stop in Moscow, en route from Mongolia to Washington, for urgent consultations with Shevardnadze in connection with the exacerbation of the situation in the Persian Gulf after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Replying to journalists Gremitskikh said the sides were likely to discuss a joint statement regarding this problem.

He also recalled that the Soviet Union decided on August 2 to suspend deliveries of arms and military equipment to Iraq.

Gremitskikh also told journalists that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov met on Thursday with Kuwaiti and Iraqi ambassadors al-Du'ayj and Jassim Husayn. In the course of conversations with the ambassadors, the deputy foreign minister stressed the need for the two sides to take measures to ensure the safety of Soviet citizens on their territories, Gremitskikh said. Although he did not know the exact number of Soviet citizens in Kuwait, Gremitskikh said there were approximately 8,000 to 9,000 Soviets in Iraq.

The Soviet president endorsed the make-up of the Soviet delegation to the 45th session of the UN General Assembly, Gremitskikh said. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will lead the Soviet delegation.

Gremitskikh described as "a rather unexpected turn of events" the suggestion by East German Prime Minister Lothar De Maiziere to hold all-German elections on October 14, 1990.

Having recalled that "the external aspects of German reunification must be settled before the official declaration of the establishment of a reunited Germany," he said that the newly- suggested date, if accepted, "could disorganise the already intense schedule of talks under the 'two plus four' formula."

Under an agreement with the Ekoprom consortium, a group of South African business executives arrived in the Soviet Union, Gremitskikh continued.

He said they are expected to discuss South African firms' involvement in efforts to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The group, which includes South African minister of trade, Industry and Tourism Kent Durr, will focus on the utilisation of South African technology and equipment to carry out urgent measures to improve the ecological situation in the stricken areas.

South African Businessmen Visit

LD0308132690 Moscow TASS in English 1317 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—TASS correspondents Boris Zverev and Aleksandr Kanishchev reporting from the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Centre:

Under an agreement with the Ekoprom Consortium, a group of South African business executives arrived in the Soviet Union, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yury Gremitskikh told a briefing here today.

He said that they are expected to discuss South African firms' involvement in efforts to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The group, which includes South African Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Kent Durr, will focus on the utilisation of South African technology and equipment to carry out urgent measures to improve the ecological situation in the disaster-affected areas.

'International Observers Roundtable' Aired 5 Aug

LD0508162190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 5 Aug 90

["International Observers Roundtable" program with announcer Gennadiy Vedenyapin; Valentin Gubernatorov, Moscow radio foreign policy commentator; and Rudolf Kolchanov, deputy editor in chief of TRUD]

[Excerpts] [Vedenyapin] Good day, esteemed comrade listeners! We are about to begin another "International Observers Roundtable." At the microphone is your presenter Gennadiy Vedenyapin. With me is my colleague Valentin Gubernatorov, a commentator on foreign policy for All-Union Radio, and Rudolf Kolchanov, deputy editor in chief of TRUD.

What has generally been a fairly favourable development of events on the international scene in recent times has, alas, been clouded this past week by the armed conflict, which—as you probably all know—has flared up within the camp of the Arab countries. By this I mean the invasion by Iraqi troops of the territory of Kuwait, and the capture of its capital. I should say straight away that it is probably doubtful whether anyone could have anticipated such a turn of events with any certainty. At any rate, nobody wanted to anticipate it. Just before the invasion the newspapers were writing that the embers of the conflict were dying down, and everyone was hoping that common sense would yet prevail in the relations between the two neighboring countries. Unfortunately, however, the reverse occurred. [passage omitted]

[Kolchanov] Many foreign observers are noting something else. They are saying that Iraq is pursuing, well, let us say, hegemonistic objectives in the region. By deploying its military power in this instance, it is trying to foist its policies on those countries which are economically stronger than Iraq, but militarily much weaker. And then, while perhaps not a decisive reason, all the same, I will say that another factor which played a part was the presence in Iraq of a vast quantity of weapons. And if, as we know, even an unloaded rifle goes of eventually, then what about a loaded one?

[Gubernatorov] Yes. [passage omitted] With the aim of settling this conflict, the United States is currently engaged in consultations with a number of Near East countries.

[Vedenyapin] Incidentally, first and foremost, we are talking about a political settlement here.

[Gubernatorov] Yes, that's what I meant, of course. First and foremost. And apropos of this, one might say that the United States is not planning any military action. The U.S. secretary of state made this clear.

[Vedenyapin] While there are no such plans as yet, the secretary of state refused to make any comment in response to a question as to whether there could be any military action against Iraq.

[Gubernatorov] I will only add that the U.S. secretary of state was in Mongolia and made a special stopover in Moscow on his way back to Washington. The very question of this armed conflict was discussed.

[Kolchanov] Here we see a reflection of the similarity in the stances of our two countries with regard to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. When George Bush was asked what the chances were of U.S.-Soviet cooperation in restoring peace in the Persian Gulf, the President replied: I would say that they are very good. I don't think James Baker would have thought to make a stopover in Moscow had there not been a high level of cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States. All that remains to be said is that, as you know, we have condemned Iraq over the armed conflict and have said that under the circumstances the Soviet Union decided to suspend delivery to Iraq of arms and military technology.

[Vedenyapin] Generally speaking, whatever reasons Baghdad uses to try to justify its action, no justification can be found for it. It is perfectly clear that Baghdad opted for the overt employment of its armed forces and for the flagrant breach of the UN Charter for its own selfish interests. Because, you will agree, the use of armed forces cannot be considered a valid argument. Rather it is a sign of weakness in one's position. On this point the experience of international life has, on a number of occasions, proved that any disputes can and must be resolved around the negotiating table. And Baghdad had the chance when the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations met in Jeddah. But it seems that it has turned up its nose at this opportunity.

[Gubernatorov] You know to what I would like to draw your attention? Try asking yourself why Baghdad took this step? And, like it or not, you cannot help but recall the U.S. troops' previous invasion of Panama, when Washington made use of the law of strength to occupy a

sovereign country which was not prepared to knuckle under to its diktat. One also recalls the events of longer ago surrounding Grenada. In both instances, the aggressor country came in for condemnation from the world community. But nevertheless, to some extent, it reaped the benefit of its reprehensible actions. And so, one cannot but come to the conclusion that Baghdad was counting on the same thing. [passage omitted]

[Kolchanov] Well, now, let us leave this topic for the time being—a very acute and dynamic topic—and turn to another. As you know, the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting heard a political statement to the effect that the USSR and the United States no longer regard one another as military adversaries. This statement provided a foundation for the discussion and analysis of a broad package of international problems at the Irkutsk working meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Baker and USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. [passage omitted]

[Gubernatorov] There is, of course, not the slightest question that the German topic figured largely in the working meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister, because the external aspect of this topic has a direct and profound effect on the interests of dozens of countries and peoples and is bound up with the prospects for pan-European and pan-world development. One could perhaps claim that Baker and Shevardnadze saved a good deal of effort in their discussion of the German problem, because just a fortnight or so ago Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl had a meeting, during which agreement was reached and a great narrowing of their stances on a whole range of fundamental issues occurred. Not surprisingly, in Irkutsk both sides hailed the outcome of the talks between the Soviet president and the leader of the West German Government. [passage omitted]

[Kolchanov] Naturally enough, there are still unresolved issues left after the working meeting in Irkutsk. But the participants voiced their assurance that the drafting of a document on a final settlement with Germany based on international law will largely be completed at the conference of the Six in Moscow in mid-September. [passage omitted]

This week, to be more exact, on Thursday, 1 August, fifteen years will have passed, a significant date, since 33 European states as well as the United States and Canada signed the Helsinki Final Act. This was a major and real breakthrough in creating a situation of peace and stability in Europe. Unfortunately, during subsequent years this process because of a number of political and ideological factors was, in point of fact, frozen for a certain amount of time. A real return to it only became possible with the beginning of perestroyka in our country. It is interesting to note that many clauses in the Helsinki Final Act, as we see today, are finding new turns and are being filled with new content. This is quite natural. Moreover, they are developing and are moving onto a new philosophical, theoretical and, of course, practical level.

[Vedenyapin] In my view, rather a strange thing is taking shape. Western countries, as we see, have a very understanding attitude toward the idea of a common European home but they reject it and want to adopt another, no less important one: the creation of a system of collective security. It would seem that logic does not work here. Yes, they say, we agree to live in a common home but we do not trust you completely, or, we do not trust you at all.

[Gubernatorov] Let us not hurry to accuse the West of faulty logic, but let us try to understand their specialists and analysts. After all, they are proceeding from the fact that the opportunities and structures for security within the framework of the Helsinki process are still limited. Each of the 35 states, they say for example, possesses the right of veto. For this reason it is practically impossible to attain a consensus, unanimous decisions, during crisis situations. Or let us say it is extremely difficult. In connection with this it is natural that the thought also arises of creating new structures and mechanisms that would guarantee security on the continent at a higher and at a qualitatively better level. [passage omitted]

[Vedenyapin] There evidently is some sense here in saying something about the changes in the positions, during recent times, of both NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization, in relation to issues of establishing more durable peace in Europe. Today neither of these organizations, set up as you know during the cold war years, can any longer rely on their previous principles. The situation is changing; accordingly, the doctrines are also changing and the very role of these blocs is changing. Look at today's Europe. Some two or three years and everything here has drastically changed. The revolutionary processes in the countries of East Europe, the development of democratisation there, of glasnost and finally the issue which we have discussed—the unification of Germany—all of this forces Western states to act also and behave differently, in a new way. Confrontations become less and less, the Cold War has receded into the past. We can already say this. However, the security of Europe, continues, remains, and in general—this is still a reality which we cannot help but recognize—it is as before a bloc system.

On the other hand, the preservation of these blocs, both the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, in their current form, in their previous form, let us put it like this, will hardly be possible during the next few years. [passage omitted]

United States & Canada

Baker, Shevardnadze Hold Talks on Iraqi Invasion

Meet in Moscow 3 Aug

LD0308163290 Moscow TASS in English 1613 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Konstantin Voitsekhovich and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker made a brief stop at Vnukovo-2 Airport in Moscow today, en route from Ulaanbaatar to Washington.

He was met by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other officials.

Immediately after the arrival, Baker and Shevardnadze began one-on-one talks.

Baker cut short his visit to Mongolia following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and made a brief stop in Moscow to discuss the situation with the Soviet foreign minister.

Hold News Conference

LD0308213790 Moscow TASS in English 2123 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Konstantin Voitsekhovich and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze described Iraqi troops' invasion of Kuwait as a "tragic event." He spoke at a news conference he held together with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 Airport today.

Shevardnadze said that the situation had been discussed during the recent meeting in Irkutsk. At that time, he said, Baker voiced serious misgivings in view of the concentration of Iraqi troop units at the border with Kuwait.

The Soviet foreign minister admitted that during the discussion of the issue in Irkutsk he "almost ruled out a further aggravation" of the situation.

"I did not think and did not expect that the Iraqis would resort to such an overt invasion, an undisguised aggression against the defenceless peace-loving country which did not and does not threaten anyone," he said.

Shevardnadze and Baker agreed in Irkutsk that if the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border aggravated, they would meet again to discuss the situation.

This is what they did. They had a meeting, which lasted slightly more than one hour at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 Airport tonight and which ended with the adoption of a joint Soviet-American statement.

Speaking of documents already issued by the Soviet" side in view of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Shevardnadze emphasised that to the Soviet Union "it was not so easy to issue such documents and make a joint statement, because it is known that we have maintained good relations with Iraq, relations which have been taking shape for decades."

"Notwithstanding all this, we had to make such step, because everything that is happening in Kuwait now, everything connected with this aggression runs counter to the principles of the new political thinking "and civilised relations between states," he said.

Joining Shevardnadze's evaluation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Baker reiterated his earlier pronouncement at the news conference in Mongolia that the invasion "is a piratic act which contradicts the norms of civilised conduct."

He pointed out that the United States understands how difficult it was for the Soviet Union to reach a decision to adopt a joint statement, and emphasised that the very fact of its adoption makes this document still more significant.

Reporters asked Shevardnadze and Baker what specific moves on the part of the Soviet Union and the United States would follow the adoption of the joint statement in order to secure the earliest settlement of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait and whether the USSR maintains contacts with the leadership of Iraq.

"We did not and do not intend to discontinue direct contacts with the leadership of Iraq," Shevardnadze said.

The Soviet leadership on Thursday sent a special message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and contacts are being maintained through the Iraqi ambassador in Moscow and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad, Shevardnadze said.

Among other possible measures of political nature, he mentioned joint actions of the USSR and the United States within the framework of the U.N. Security Council.

If the U.N. Security Council's first already adopted resolution on the issue is not implemented, Shevardnadze said, the question of passing a second resolution would naturally appear on the agenda in order to have an appropriate basis for taking practical measures to end the conflict, he added.

In the opinion of the Soviet and American sides, very much can be done in this respect by Arab countries themselves, by the Non- Aligned Movement, the League of Arab States and regional organisations.

The United States is making similar political and diplomatic moves, and is holding consultations with the governments of other countries, Baker said.

Besides, the United States is applying certain economic sanctions against Iraq, he added. In this connection he pointed out the importance of the call, contained in the joint statement, to other states to give up supplying arms to Iraq.

Asked by TASS about the appraisal by the American side of the situation in the Gulf and possible joint measures by the United States and the USSR to preserve peace and security in the region, Baker said that during today's meeting, he and Shevardnadze agreed to maintain close contacts between the Soviet and U.S. Governments as the situation develops.

As for the use of military measures, he said that it is inexpedient to guess what options can be taken.

For his part, Shevardnadze expressed hope that the Iraqi leaders would have enough courage, determination and political wisdom to save their people and the international community from this conflict.

Noting that the Soviet leaders decided to suspend military deliveries to Iraq on Thursday, he stressed that the USSR would act in other areas, "taking into account further developments".

Shevardnadze said that there is no official reply from Baghdad to a message by the Soviet leadership.

But the Soviet Union is assured during contacts at various levels that "Iraq will withdraw its troops from Kuwait in the near future".

"As for military interference, the Soviet Union has no plans of this kind and, as far as I know, the United States has no such plans either," he continued.

Speaking of the fate of about 900 Soviet citizens in Kuwait and 7,000-8,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq, Shevardnadze said: "We hope that the safety of Soviet people will be ensured".

Otherwise, "consequences may be very serious," he noted. A similar statement concerning the safety of American citizens in Kuwait and Iraq was made by Baker.

Issue Statement of Condemnation

LD0308180290 Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondents Konstantin Voitsekhovich and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—"The Soviet Union and the United States as members of the United Nations Security Council consider it important for the Security Council to immediately and resolutely condemn Iraq's flagrant invasion of Kuwait," says a joint statement issued by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

The joint statement on the situation that has taken shape in view of Iraq's invasion of the territory of Kuwait also points out that the Soviet Union and the United States consider it fundamentally important that the appropriate resolution of the Security Council be fully and immediately complied with.

Shevardnadze and Baker have just begun a joint news conference at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 Airport. Baker made a brief stopover here on his way from Ulaanbaatar to Washington to discuss the current situation with Shevardnadze.

Cite UN Charter Violation

LD0308191290 Moscow TASS in English 1900 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived here from Ulaanbaatar today for urgent consultations with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in view of the aggravation of the situation in the area of the Persian Gulf as a result of Iraqi troops' invasion of Kuwait.

At the close of their meeting at Vnukovo Airport, Shevardnadze and Baker issued a joint statement at a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists and answered their questions.

The statement reads as follows:

"The Soviet Union and the United States as members of the United Nations Security Council consider it fundamentally important that the Security Council immediately and resolutely condemn the flagrant unlawful invasion of Kuwait by the armed forces of Iraq. The Soviet Union and the United States consider it fundamentally important the Security Council resolution be fully and immediately complied with.

"Iraq's actions runs counter to the fundamental principles of the U.N. Charter and international law. In response to this obvious violation of the basic norms of civilised conduct, the United States and the Soviet Union independently made a number of moves. In particular, the Soviet Union suspended the supply of arms while the United States froze [Iraq's and Kuwait's] bank assets.

"The USSR and the USA reaffirm their call to Iraq to unconditionally withdraw troops from Kuwait. The sovereignty, national independence, lawful authority and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait should be fully restored and ensured.

"The USA and the USSR believe that the international community should not only condemn the invasion but also take practical steps in response. The Soviet Union and the United States are now resorting to an unusual step—they are jointly urging the entire international community to join them and suspend all supplies of arms to Iraq on an international scale.

"The USSR and the USA are also calling on regional organisations, primarily the League of Arab States, all Arab countries as well as the Non-aligned Movement and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to take all possible steps to secure the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution.

"Governments that resort to a glaring aggression should know that the international community cannot and will not reconcile itself to aggression or assist it."

Baker left Moscow later in the day.

'Unanimity' Seen on Gulf Crisis

LD0508005790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 90

[From the "The World in the Mirror of Events" program: "A Saturday Dialogue" presented by Valentin Gubernatorov and Viktor Levin]

[Text] [Gubernatorov] As you are aware, both the Soviet Union and the United States have condemned Iraq's agression against Kuwait. In this connection I asked Vitkor Levin this question: There has just been a meeting in Irkutsk between U.S. Secretary of State Baker and USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Shevardnadze. Were there any statements about this?

[Levin] You know, at the news conference held at Vnukovo-2 Airport Eduard Amvrosiyevich told us that during the Irkutsk meeting the problems in the Persian Gulf region were touched on and that the secretary of state expressed his concern about the concentration of Iraqi troops on the Kuwaiti border. However, Eduard Amvrosiyevich said to us, to all the journalists:

I have to admit that I did not believe that events would develop in this way and, in effect, I had ruled this out. In Irkutsk however I agreed with the secretary of state that if events did take an undesirable or even tragic turn we would immediately make contact with one another.

This contact was established immediately after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait. At that time Secretary of State Baker was in Ulaanbaator. It was the first visit to Mongolia by the head of the U.S. foreign policy department and great significance had been attached to it. Events, however, proved still more serious and interrupting his visit, Baker set off for Moscow. The actual fact that the secretary of state and the minister of foreign affairs worked out a joint Soviet-U.S. statement on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is an unprecedented event, one unprecedented in all the postwar years.

[Gubernatorov] I would now like to digress a little from the subject of Iraq and Kuwait to ask whether such unanimity was achieved during the discussion of other matters in Irkutsk?

[Levin] You know, I think that here it is appropriate to note that this unanimity—not, of course in such complex circumstances although I do think that this unanimity in approach to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait can also be seen as a test of strength for Soviet-U.S. relations—in general this unanimity began to develop earlier on. As we flew from Irkutsk to Moscow I asked Eduard Shevardnadze: What do you regard as most important in the Irkutsk meeting? What achievement would you put in first place?

Eduard Amvrosiyevich said: You know, things have to be seen here as a whole. He particularly singled out his meeting with the secretary of state in Wyoming where an agreement in principle was reached to move from mutual understanding to mutual action.

Then a very, an extremely important, stage was the Soviet-U.S. summit at which the presidents of our countries, Gorbachev and Bush, raised the matter of the need to build our relations according to the principles of partnership. A process is now under way, a process of imbuing this point, this formula, with an actual content. If we are to speak of the main results of the Soviet-U.S. meeting in Irkutsk first place should go to the highly detailed discussion of all problems related to the Asian-Pacific region. At the news conference in Irkutsk Eduard Shevardnadze said that in the past this dialogue had not been a success whereas now it is succeeding and a whole series of very important and very interesting agreements are taking shape.

You are all already aware of the fact that a very noticeable change has taken place in the United States' position on Cambodia. Basically, the United States had rejected support for the Khmer Rouge. This is a fundamental issue. A very noticeable rapprochement is taking place on the problem of an Afghan peace settlement. After all, the Soviet Union and the United States now have an absolutely identical approach to the problem. Mutual understanding on the main issues is emerging, particularly on the matter of how to organize and hold truly free elections in Afghanistan under UN auspices.

[Gubernatorov] As far as I know the idea of free elections is not very popular among a certain proportion of people in Afghanistan.

I even know, and our press too has written about this, that Najibullah does not particularly welcome this solution to the matter.

[Levin] I have read a discussion in IZVESTIYA to the effect that Najibullah feels like this. (Maksim Yusin) was also one of those taking part in our trip but to be honest I had completely the opposite impression. After all, it was Najibullah who suggested holding these free elections. It has to be said that at the moment he is carrying out a very serious reorganization within the country. A reassessment of the period that has passed, the recent period, is under way and at the same time future bridges are being envisaged.

I had a very detailed conversation with Eduard Shevardnadze en route to Moscow on the topic of Afghanistan. He spoke with great respect and I would say even

emphasized the great political significance of a whole series of recent speeches by President Najibullah; of the fact, for example, that Najibullah has cited the number of Afghans who have died. These are terrible figures, after all. One and a half million Afghans have died in the years of war in Afghanistan. When the president of Afghanistan named them along with an assessment of the introduction of Soviet troops, it makes one think very seriously, very seriously. After all, the president believes that the introduction of Soviet troops did not correspond to the Afghans' nation interests. We have no right to disagree with this assessment.

[Gubernatorov] What is your assessment of the arms control and disarmament talks?

[Levin] Here I think it is very important that Eduard Amvrosiyevich told the U.S. secretary of state that the Soviet Union has adopted a decision to cease production of strategic missiles on railway flat wagons as of 1991. This opens the way to work out simpler, albiet no less reliable, methods of monitoring compliance with the agreement being drafted on reducing strategic offensive weapons.

[Gubernatorov] As far as I know, the United States has said that it cannot take a reciprocal step.

[Levin] They say they cannot do so since they don't have such missiles. To be honest this is not too precise. The United States does have such missiles, the MX. They have not been deployed but that is another matter. So, we are banking on the fact that the United States will not deploy them but halting the production of our own missiles opens up the possibility for still further advances in tackling this issue. I would like to reiterate that claims that the United States does not have similar missiles are inaccurate.

[Gubernatorov] As is well-known, bilateral and transnational issues were also discussed at the meeting. Incidentally, perhaps you could explain to our listeners what transnational issues means?

[Levin] In this instance it was a question of ecology. That is one transnational problem and we are all well aware of it. Second, there is the struggle against terrorism and illegal drugs trafficking.

[Gubernatorov] A little more detail perhaps about bilateral relations?

[Levin] On this I would say that in Irkutsk it was predominantly a preliminary conversation, a very important one, however. An agreement was reached that a joint Soviet-U.S. commission on trade will be held in Moscow in September. Representatives of U.S. business circles will attend. Eduard Amvrosiyevich hoped that Secretary of State Baker might also attend. At this, Shevardnadze said that an accord in principle had already been agreed on to the effect that Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, will take part in that meeting. The commission's sittings will be discussing what needs to be done in order to open up extensive possibilities for bilateral relations. At present there are two points which arouse special interest in the United States and no doubt we should take heed of this and make the appropriate decisions.

U.S. Denounces Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait

Prepared To Intervene

PM0308175290 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Aug 90 First Edition p 5

[Roundup by TASS, PRAVDA correspondents: "Iraq-Kuwait: Echo of Armed Conflict"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] From early this morning, one question was on the lips of leading White House staffers: What can and should the United States do?

President G. Bush announced that he is ready to do everything necessary to protect American interests in the region. But it was clear from his words that the United States will not resort to military interference. "We are not considering intervention, we are not discussing any military option for action," he said. But later, in Colorado, where his meeting with M. Thatcher was taking place, Bush emphatically left that possibility open.

Just in case the Potomac does decide after all to take military steps, the Pentagon has ordered the aircraft carrier "Independence," with an escort of six ships, to make its way from the Indian Ocean to the Persian Gulf. Eight U.S. Navy ships are already there now. Meanwhile, calls are being made in Congress for direct armed action agianst Iraq using the aircraft stationed on American ships. The White House is also under fire—it has just become known here that the CIA apparently warned the President of the "probability" of an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraq-Kuwait conflict has provoked in the West in general a condition approaching panic. The world has once again realized how explosive is this region, which floats on a sea of oil. Japan, for instance, obtains 99 percent of all its oil from imports, of which 10 percent comes directly from Iraq and Kuwait. In West Europe, nervousness has led to soaring oil prices. On the American stock markets, the news of the Iraqi aggression instantly boosted oil prices by more than 20 percent.

'Pleased' With Soviet Support

LD0408085690 Moscow TASS in English 0641 GMT 4 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has said he was "very, very pleased" with the cooperation the United States was having with the Soviet Union on the question of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Speaking to reporters on Friday before flying to his country residence at Camp David, he said the Iraqi actions were "a matter of grave concern" to both the United States and the rest of the international community because "what Iraq has done violates every norm of international law".

Iraq's 'Total Withdrawal' Sought

LD0608081390 Moscow TASS in English 0726 GMT 6 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington August 6 TASS—"Iraq lied once again. They said they were going to start moving out on Sunday and we have no evidence that they are moving out," U.S. President George Bush told correspondents on Sunday after he arrived in the White House from Camp David.

Bush said he continued to hold contacts with leaders of a number of countries, including NATO allies and Japan, on measures aimed to press for Iraqi troops' withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government there.

"I think the NATO alliance is thinking exactly the same way on this," Bush said. "What is emerging is nobody is willing to accept anything less than total withdrawal from Kuwait of the Iraqi forces and no puppet regime. We've been down that road."

"There seems to be a unified front that says Iraq, having committed brutal, naked aggression, ought to get out and that this concept of their installing some puppet leaving behind will not be acceptable," Bush said.

Bush said he continued his diplomatic efforts and on Monday will hold meetings with the NATO secretary-general and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before her departure.

He refused to answer questions on possible military actions of the United States. He stated: "All options are open and there is a strong feeling on the part of the NATO countries to whom I have talked, Turkey being one of them, that we must have concerted, and I'd say, concerted action to isolate Iraq economically."

Speaking about U.S. citizens in Kuwait, Bush said: "I would not want to say they are in danger, but you know how I feel about the protection of American life and willingness to do whatever necessary to protect it. But I don't have the feeling that they are in imminent danger right now."

Bush said "an Arab solution" of the Kuwait crisis, proposed by some Arab leaders, "has obviously failed." "I want to see the Arab states join the rest of the world in condemning this outrage and doing what they can to get Saddam Husayn out," Bush said.

Dubious About Withdrawal Plan

LD0508181590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] The White House has expressed profound skepticism regarding the Iraqi authorities' intention to withdraw their occupation troops from Kuwait. The United States continues to strive for an immediate, total, and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and for the restoration of the lawful government of that country. Answering journalists' questions, the White House spokesman confirmed that according to U.S. data Iraqi troops are five to 10 miles from the border with Saudi Arabia. He refused to comment on THE WASHINGTON POST that the United States has sent special purpose troops to the Near East, to the conflict area.

Ready To Defend Saudi Arabia

PM0408203990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[Dispatch by unnamed correspondent: "Nervousness in America"]

[Text] Washington, 4 Aug—Not an hour goes by without a meeting of the latest special interdepartmental group set up in connection with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

President Bush is also holding meetings with his advisers, discussing, it is reported, "all possible scenarios" for American action in the dangerous situation that has developed. At the moment President Bush is not rushing into any concrete statements pending the results of the Arab summit conference that has begun.

Admittedly, before leaving for Camp David the President got very close to what people here call the "red line," warning Iraq against invading Saudi Arabia. While he did not specifically threaten Baghdad with military measures, Bush unambiguously stated that the inviolability of the Saudi status quo is "very, very important for the United States." In his words, "all options are feasible—economic and others"—in the event of a further attack by Iraqi forces, which, according to U.S. intelligence data, are already seven or eight kilometers from Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia. Bush stated that if that country requests American aid Washington will act to offer any assistance.

It is report that the most likely scenario for American interference in the conflict is the sending of U.S. Air Force aircraft. But as yet Riyadh is refusing to allow the Pentagon to use its military bases, manifestly preferring to conduct direct talks with Iraq.

Bush, U.S. Officials Deliberate

LD0408190290 Moscow TASS in English 1842 GMT 4 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington August 4 TASS—President George Bush conferred with his closet advisers in the Camp David residence on Saturday morning to analyse the situation in Kuwait and possible U.S. response.

The meeting was attended by Secretary of State James Baker, just back from Moscow, Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Brent Scowcroft and Vice-President Dan Quayle.

They examined the latest intelligence reports about the movement of Iraqi troops in Kuwait and discussed possible U.S. actions to settle the Kuwait crisis, including armed actions.

The Bush administration is skeptical about the promises of the Iraqi leadership to begin the withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait on Sunday. According to space photo information, there are no signs of Iraqi troops preparing to leave Kuwait, the CNN television company reports. There are no signs of preparations for the invasion of Saudi Arabia either, although Iraqi troops are now deployed several kilometres from the Saudi border.

It has been reported that Bush called Japanese Prime Minister Toshiko Kaifu on Saturday, urging him to impose economic sanctions on Iraq, including the termination of crude oil imports and the freezing of Iraqi assets in Japan. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, now on a visit in the State of Colorado, decided to reduce the visit by two days and return to London.

Welcome Further Consultations

LD0508191890 Moscow TASS in English 1853 GMT 5 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington August 5 TASS—The White House expressed on Sunday deep scepticism over the intention of the Iraqi authorities to withdraw their occupation forces from Kuwait. White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said on Sunday that the Iraqi Government announced on Sunday morning the beginning of troop withdrawal from Kuwait. However, the United States has no independent information confirming this report. Saddam Husayn's past actions evoke deep scepticism over his intentions, he pointed out.

Fitzwater said that the U.S. continued to insist on the immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of the lawful government of that country. The U.S. continues to analyse all possible actions in accordance with this policy, he added.

According to Fitzwater, President Bush, staying in the Camp David residence, consulted by telephone on Saturday with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Turkish President Turgut Ozal, the emir of Kuwait and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

We continue to encourage our friends and allies throughout the world to follow the U.S. example—to freeze Iraqi assets and impose economic sanctions on Iraq, Fitzwater said. The U.S. also insists on freezing the Kuwaiti assets, so that they do not get into the hands of Iraq."

The White House spokesman stressed that the U.S. was holding active consultations with representatives of the U.N. Security Council with the aim to impose sanctions on Iraq in accordance with Article VII of the U.N. Charter. We urge the Security Council to vote for these sanctions as soon as possible, Fitzwater pointed out.

Touching upon the situation of American citizens in that region, he said that 11 Americans, who were believed missing, were brought to Baghdad and had an opportunity to meet representatives of the U.S. Embassy. Press reports about the capture of Americans from the Seawolf tanker must be a mistake, because we cannot find information confirming them, Fitzwater stated.

Commentary Argues Invasion 'Cannot Be Justified'

LD0308163890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is expected to arrive in Moscow in about an hour. He will have a conversation at Vnukovo-2 Airport with the USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze. Yesterday, summing up the 16th meeting between the two ministers, which had ended in Irkutsk, I said the next one, the 17th, would be held early in the first ten days of September. That was what Shevardnadze and Baker expected. But Iraq's attack on Kuwait has made it necessary for them to meet again without delay.

The U.S. secretary of state interrupted his visit to Mongolia and flew urgently to Moscow. Talking to the press before leaving Ulaanbaatar, Baker described the probable Soviet-American statement on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as unique and very important. Frankly, in my view in would be better if this meeting between Shevardnadze and Baker did not take place, because it would be better if its cause, Iraq's attack on Kuwait, had not happened.

The Soviet Union, as the Soviet Government statement says, believes nothing justifies the use of force. We urge the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait's territory. The United States has taken the same stand, and this has created a foundation for interaction. The secretary of state expressed the

hope that the United States and the Soviet Union will be able to present a united front on this acute problem.

I say again that Iraq's attack on Kuwait cannot be justified. This fact is in itself bad news. But that the USSR and the United States will be holding a dialogue at ministerial level on how to help settle the conflict is good news. It shows the new political thinking is more and more extensively entering into practice of international relations, and that the desire of the USSR and the United States, as formulated by their presidents, to build their relations upon a basis of partnership is being put into practice and is being tested for strength.

One would like to hope that the interaction of the two powers will help to stop Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and restore the full sovereignty of Kuwait.

Northeast Asia

Japan's Military Buildup Plans Scrutinized

PM0308133990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Second Edition p 3

[Article by V. Vladimirov: "Aggressive Defense. Who Benefits From the Thesis About Threat to Japan 'From the North'?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today it would seem that the myth of the "Soviet threat" is being debunked as a result of efforts made by the Soviet Union and the United States. But from the Japanese government's viewpoint, the detente process has still not affected the Asia-Pacific region. Such a position gives rise to very grave fears in the majority of ASEAN countries regarding the aggressive Washington-Tokyo-Seoul axis which is virtually in existence. Some chance for peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region!

Japan's military doctrine, which had hitherto been strictly defense-oriented, is also undergoing changes. In May KYODO disclosed the existence of a certain secret plan, devised deep inside the Japan Defense Agency. Under the plan, five new tank battalions will be formed on Hokkaido already before the end of this year "to reinforce ground forces present on the island."

The purpose of this redeployment, KYODO reported referring to Japan Defense Agency circles, is to move tank subunits to a "strategically important region" where they will be on hand in case an "extraordinary situation" arises. This will enable ground forces on Hokkaido to increase their "strategic mobility," which is simply necessary—or so it is claimed—because of the fact that Tokyo has already begun the transition from the idea of "internal defense" to a new strategy. It envisages "active defense at forward positions," which even includes "preemptive strikes" at enemy territory, that is, the Soviet Union.

During the May debates in the Japanese parliament, Prime Minister T. Kaifu let it be clearly understood that, despite the positive tendencies toward detente in East-West relations, his government does not renounce the thesis of a "Soviet military threat" and will continue the buildup of the country's military potential. And the issue here is not only a matter of oral declarations by the prime minister or the Japan Defense Agency chief.

First, in the current fiscal year which began 1 April, Japan's military expenditure will rise by more than six percent. (Incidentally, the Japan Defense Agency recently stated that in fiscal 1991 the growth of military expenditure must be no less than the same six percent. And this despite the fact that the country already ranks third in the world in terms of its absolute volume of military appropriations).

And second, the military department has completed working out the country's next five-year military building program for 1991-1995, whose implementation will cost an astronomic sum—over 23 trillion yen. It lays special emphasis not on a quantitative but on a qualitative buildup of the "self-defense forces," and on equipping them with the latest types of weapons.

Against this background, all of official Tokyo's statements about "enormous Soviet military might" and about the "continuing Soviet occupation of the northern territories," as the southern part of the Kuril chain is called there and whose ownership Japan stubbornly disputes with the USSR, serve as nothing but a smoke screen for the Japanese side's unwillingness to take specific measures in the disarmament sphere.

That is why the new five-year military program is being subjected to criticism in the country itself. The prevailing opinion, ASAHI writes, is that the proposed army modernization plan "is creating a threat to other countries."

For his part K. Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party Central Executive Committee, speaking at the beginning of July at a news conference in Fukuoka Prefecture, stated that the Japanese Government should radically review its military policy in the light of Soviet Armed Forces reductions in the Far East and the improvement of the political climate on the planet, and also demanded a review of the "Soviet threat" thesis that serves as the main argument for Japan's buildup of military might. K. Ouchi is merely reflecting the viewpoint of a significant section of Japanese people. A recent public opinion poll carried out by ASAHI revealed that at least around one-half of them think that, in conditions of decreasing "Soviet military threat," Japan should not increase defense appropriations.

A different opinion is held at the Japan Defense Agency. During an inspection tour of Sasebo Navy Base in July, Yozo Ishikawa, chief of the Japan Defense Agency, spoke along the lines that Japan does not see any positive changes in Soviet military policy in the Far East and therefore must arm itself.

And while statements of this sort are being made, Soviet maritime borders in the "northern territories" region continue to be violated constantly by "peaceful Japanese fishermen" who are quite often armed with sharpened pikestaffs to resist legitimate actions by Soviet border guards. Piratical fish poaching in USSR territorial waters serves a provocative purpose—constantly to incite Japanese public opinion against the Soviet Union.

The Japanese side's prejudice against the Soviet Union can also be judged by the unfriendly stance taken by Tokyo regarding the West's giving support to perestroyka in Soviet society. Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, in the statement he made 27 July at a meeting with Japanese mass media leaders, conveyed the idea that Japan is apparently ready to develop relations with the USSR, including expansion of economic and humanitarian contacts, without abandoning the policy of resolving the territorial problem as early as possible. "We cannot put off the northern territories problem, but this does not mean blocking relations in other spheres," the Japanese head of government said.

And if the pronouncements of the Japanese head of government and representatives of military circles are compared, then there is an enormous difference between the words of the prime minister and the intentions of the military. There is still a long way between words about readiness to develop relations with the USSR and practical deeds. Of course, the establishment of good neighborly relations between our two countries depends on both sides—Soviet and Japanese. The Soviet Union has repeatedly declared its readiness to develop such relations and has taken practical steps toward this. And why should Japan not now take the next step, a step toward us.

Japan's Owada Concludes Visit on Relations

OW0408045490 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] At a briefing session, Mr. Gremitskikh, deputy chief of the Information Administration of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, stated that the two-day USSR-Japan consultations held at the working level had concluded in Moscow on 31 July. Igor Rogachev, deputy foreign minister, led the Soviet delegation and Hisashi Owada, deputy foreign minister, headed the Japanese side.

According to Mr. Gremitskikh, the main topic of discussion during the 30 July session revolved around current international issues. Issues pertaining to bilateral relations were discussed at the 31 July round of talks.

It has been reported that both Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev and Mr. Owada will also head the Soviet and Japanese delegations, respectively, at the working group sessions scheduled to be held on 1 August to discuss concluding a Soviet-Japanese peace treaty.

Rogachev Comments on Talks, Peace Treaty

OW0608014290 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Soviet-Japanese deputy foreign ministerial talks and Soviet-Japanese working level talks on the conclusion of a peace treaty were held in Moscow from 30 July to 1 August. Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev and Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Owada headed their countries' respective delegations at these talks. The two deputy foreign ministers held a news conference with Japanese journalists, who were visiting Moscow, on 2 August. (Rubin), chief of the Japanese Language Division of Moscow Radio, was also present.

During the news conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev expressed his satisfaction with the results of the three-day talks. He stated:

[Begin Rogachev recording in Russian, fading into Japanese translation] Japan and the Soviet Union are taking a similar or the same stance with regard to many international issues. Bilateral relations were discussed in detail at the talks. There is a great potential for the two countries to expand their cooperation in various areas. The latest talks in Moscow dealt with specific preparations for Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to Japan in September. This visit will be an important stage in preparing for President Gorbachev's visit to Japan.

At the talks, the Japanese side expressed the hope that the Soviet visits to Japan would lead to concrete agreements, or to the conclusion of various treaties between the Soviet Union and Japan. Needless to say, there are differences between the two countries. However, the two do not need to clamor about these differences. Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will visit Japan to hold talks with Japanese leaders. He will discuss with them various military and political issues facing the Asia and Pacific region. The foreign minister plans to make a series of prepared proposals for easing tensions and for reducing military confrontation in the region. [end recording]

Turning to the working level talks on the conclusion of a peace treaty, Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev noted the following:

[Begin Rogachev recording in Russian, fading into Japanese translation] At the previous round of talks held in Tokyo last year, the Soviet side presented a historical and legal basis for arguing that the southern Kuril Islands belong to the Soviet Union. At the recent talks in Moscow, the Japanese side presented the basis for Japan's claim. The position adopted by Japan at these talks was more logical than that of the Soviet Union. Since the Soviet side has respected Japan's position, I hope that the Japanese side will accept our position with respect. Although both sides deepened their mutual understanding at the talks, they still stuck to their conventional stances on that issue. If the climate surrounding Soviet-Japanese relations becomes more

friendly, then this will make it easier to find ways to resolve pending issues between the two countries. [end recording]

At the deputy foreign ministerial talks, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Owada made [word indistinct] proposals for the development of bilateral cooperation on behalf of the Japanese Government. Referring to these proposals, Deputy Foreign Minister Owada noted that the proposals would be examined by the Soviet Government. They might lead to the conclusion of many important treaties between the Soviet Union and Japan. In particular, Japan proposed plans to provide assistance to Soviet residents suffering from the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. This will improve the climate surrounding Soviet-Japanese relations in the future.

Japan's Kaifu Seeks To Expand Economic Ties

PM0508170590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by unnamed TASS correspondent: "T. Kaifu on Relations With the USSR"]

[Text] Japan intends to expand humanitarian, cultural, and scientific exchanges with the Soviet Union with a view to promoting the economic and political reforms taking place there. This was stated by the country's prime minister, T. Kaifu, at a news conference in Ichinomiya (Aichi Prefecture).

"We have already hosted Soviet fact-finding delegations in the fields of economics and administrative management," he said. "And in the future too Japan will take a positive attitude to this kind of practice if it is really useful from the viewpoint of the democratization and economic development of the USSR. In my view it would also not be a bad thing to expand our bilateral exchanges of students and scientists." In Kaifu's words, he hopes for the emergence between Japan and the Soviet Union of a kind of "interdependence in fields where intellectual cooperation is possible."

"While developing relations with the Soviet Union," the Japanese prime minister added, "we will simultaneously strive to resolve the territorial question." As is known, Japan claims the four islands in the southern part of the Kuril chain. In official Tokyo's words, "the presence of this problem" prevents widespread economic cooperation with the USSR, particularly the granting of financial resources, and therefore at the present stage only purely "intellectual assistance" can be involved. By this concept people here mean exchanges of delegations which could familiarize Soviet specialists with the fundamentals of Japanese economic activity. As the local press notes in this connection, Kaifu's latest statements testify to a certain broadening of the official attitude to relations with the USSR since on this occasion the premier's speech also mentioned cultural and scientific ties.

Responding during the news conference to a request to comment on USSR President M.S. Gorbachev's recently expressed intention to visit Japan next spring, the head of the Japanese cabinet said that we should wait for USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze's upcoming visit to Tokyo and see how the talks go. The Soviet minister's visit, Kaifu stressed, could become turning point in our bilateral relations.

Threat to Pacific Region Called 'Fabrication'

OW0408085390 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Commentary by Kalinin]

[Text] Several Japanese official sources, above all leading figures connected with the military, have frequently made remarks on their feelings concerning the threat from the Soviet Pacific Fleet. In this connection, Radio Moscow military commentator Kalinin remarks:

The issue concerning the Soviet Pacific Fleet threatening the Asia-Pacific region was brought up in Japan several years ago. Is there any truth in it? Let us take a look at facts. First of all, it should be pointed out that a majority of the Soviet Pacific Fleet vessels are specially designed for military actions in waters adjoining their bases; they are not fitted for distant operations.

Then, what about larger vessels, including aircraft carriers, cruisers, or destroyers? As far as these vessels are concerned, U.S. capability is nearly four times that of the Soviet Union. In the Pacific region, the United States has equipped thirty of its warships with intermediate-range cruise missiles but no Soviet vessels are equipped with such weapons. Moreover, while the number of U.S. multipurpose atomic-powered submarines deployed in the Pacific Ocean is eight times that of the Soviet Union, the number of ship-based airplanes is three times that of the Soviet Union.

Furthermore, in order to make clear the relationship of power between the United States and the Soviet Union, it is also important to compare the capability of launching landing operations between American and Soviet Pacific Fleets. For example, the number of American landing vessels is two and a half times that of the Soviet Union, and the troop strength of the U.S. Marine Corps is nearly 27 times superior to that of the Soviet Union.

When the fact that the Japanese Navy is inferior in number of its vessels only to the United States and the Soviet Union is taken into consideration, it would become apparent that all the remarks on the threat from the Soviet Pacific Fleet are (?false statements) with no basis in fact. Moreover, it should be stressed that as part of the program for unilateral reduction of its military strength as announced in December 1988, the Soviet Union will reduce 16 vessels from its Pacific Fleet by the end of this year.

In an attempt to downgrade the significance of this initiative by the Soviet Union, a certain circle in Japan

has tried to make the program look as if the Soviet Union were trying to replace old vessels with sophisticated ones, thereby jumping to the conclusion that Soviet naval forces have been strengthened.

In regard to this point, Admiral (Tanin), head of the main Political Directorate of the Soviet Navy, has stated as follows:

In reducing the number of vessels of the navy, it goes without saying that those warships that have been commissioned for many years will be decommissioned first. As for the introduction of sophisticated vessels or submarines, it should be noted that the speed of building such vessels has slowed conspicuously in recent times. In this connection, in talking about the Soviet Navy's potential threat to neighboring nations, it should be said that the level of such dangers, including the Pacific Fleet's operational range, has been downgraded. Attention should be paid to the fact that the United States and its allies have somewhat lagged behind in their reactions to the reduction of Soviet naval strength in the Asia-Pacific region, even when the issue should be taken under serious consideration.

This is what Admiral (Tanin) has stated, and we cannot but agree with his views.

As is known to all, Soviet President Gorbachev has made proposals in his speeches delivered in Vladivostok and Krasnoyarsk that the actions of the naval forces in the Asia-Pacific region should be limited and the naval forces should not be strengthened. It has also been proposed that in the areas close to the coasts of the Soviet Union, China, Japan, the DPRK, and the ROK, naval forces should be frozen first and then the issue on reduction of these forces should be discussed.

The Soviet side is also ready to examine other measures for arms control and disarmament. To our regret, we have not yet received any positive responses to these proposals from either the United States or its allies, including Japan. In my opinion, this fact most clearly proves that the argument on the Soviet military threat is nothing but a fabrication. If it were not a fabrication, it is impossible that those who have been talking about the so-called Soviet military threat should have no interest in seeking ways to eliminate such a threat.

In this connection, I would like to point out that if what is wanted is genuine security in all regions of the world, including the Asia-Pacific region, policies that are based not on fabrications but on realistic judgment of the situation should be implemented.

Easing Tension on Korean Peninsula Explored

SK0308112990 Moscow International Service in Korean 20 Jul 90

[Text] As is known, the issue of removing the state of confrontation between the DPRK and the ROK is a central issue in the dialogue between the South and North. In this connection, our station's military commentator Sergey Leskov examines the issue of how to remove the state of military confrontation from the Korean peninsula.

Sergey Leskov writes: I think that an optimistic view is well-grounded. This is evidenced by the closeness of the stands taken by the two sides, as well as by the closeness of the views held by the two sides concerning the issue of easing military tension on the Korean peninsula.

Toward the end of last month, An Pyong-su, spokesman for the Secretariat of the DPRK's Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, noted that it must begin with the relaxation of tension and that without this, mistrust cannot be overcome.

On the whole, this has something in common with the intention of Seoul, which insists on beginning with a measure aimed at creating mutual trust. The ROK has already set out to do this unilaterally.

Meanwhile, the DPRK insists on a complete discontinuation of military exercises conducted with a number of military personnel larger than [word indistinct]. The South attaches importance to the participation of the opposing side's observers in the military exercises. It will not be very hard, however, to iron out such a discrepancy in views.

For example, in Europe all such conditions have been reconciled. Countries that have signed the Stockholm agreement on confidence building in military matters give advance notice to the other countries of the military maneuvers involving approximately 13,000 soldiers and approximately 300 tanks, 42 days before the military exercises are conducted. Besides, if the number of military personnel involved in military exercises exceeds 17,000, the countries that conduct such military exercises do not fail to invite military observers to witness the exercises.

Unquestionably, the desire of the two sides to ease tension along the 38th Parallel, the most dangerous spot between the North and South, is positive. Toward this end, Seoul proposes that all military forces be withdrawn from the areas along the demarcation line and its neighboring areas and then let an international institution inspect the overall situation.

In my opinion, the proposition by the participants in a meeting of the DPRK's central organizations that military personnel of such neutral nations as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, and Sweden be deployed in areas along the demarcation line and that all manner of military facilities be withdrawn from these areas is not at all contradictory to such a stand taken by the South.

Even when it comes to a view of regarding mjlitary detente as a step-by-step process of constant contacts between the military delegates from the South and North, the two sides seem to share a similar stand in some other aspects.

In conclusion, Sergey Leskov writes: I cannot but note the difference in the opinions of the two sides. The stationing of U.S. troops on the Korean Peninsula is still a key problem. In this connection, I cannot help but agree with the view held by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who stated that conditions have not yet ripened to solve such a question.

However, the goodwill and genuine resources that are to be demonstrated in the process of removing the state of military confrontation will be proven precisely in the stands taken by (?the two) sides.

No matter how complicated the issue of easing military tension on the Korean peninsula may be, the model set by other countries, for instance the model set between the member states of the Warsaw Pact and NATO, shows that it can resolve a more complicated military scenario.

What counts most in this regard are the political reality and the goodwill of the participants in talks.

Near East & South Asia

Official Reactions to Iraqi Invasion Reported

Belonogov, Regional Envoys Meet

PM0408140490 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Following Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait": "Meetings With Ambassadors"]

[Text] A.M. Belonogov, USSR deputy foreign minister, received Kuwaiti Ambassador 'A. al-Du'ayj 2 August at the latter's request.

The ambassador briefed him on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory and asked the Soviet Union to back Kuwait's demand for the UN Security Council to be convened and a resolution adopted with a view to immediately putting a stop to the use of force against the Kuwaiti state.

The ambassador was told of our concern in connection with the situation that has taken shape and told that the Soviet Union will act in accordance with the principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and noninterference in internal affairs.

On the same day A.M. Belonogov received Iraqi Ambassador Q.J. Husayn and handed him the Soviet Government statement in connection with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory. Hope was expressed that Iraq will immediately act on the Security Council resolution adopted 2 August on this question.

During his conversations with the Kuwaiti and Iraqi ambassadors the USSR deputy foreign minister stressed the need to ensure that both countries take steps to ensure the safety of Soviet citizens on their territory.

A.M. Belonogov received E. Heyken, FRG charge d'affaires in the USSR, at the latter's request. They discussed the situation that has arisen as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territory.

Belonogov Seeks Iraqi Withdrawal

LD0508171690 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov received today Ghafil Jassim Husayn, Iraqi ambassador to the Soviet Union, who handed a message from President Saddam Husayn of Iraq in response to the appeal of the Soviet leadership in connection with Iraqi armed invasion of Kuwait.

During the conversation the ambassador's attention was drawn "to the importance of completing as soon as possible the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from the Kuwaiti territory, whose beginning was announced by Baghdad." It was stressed that the Soviet Union was following closely the ensurance of the security of Soviet citizens in the region, where these developments are taking place.

Ministry Reports No Casualties

PM0408140490 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Report from roundup prepared by Yu. Gatselyuk and A. Ivanko under the general heading "Kuwait: 48 Hours After the Iraqi Invasion": "No Casualties Among Soviet Citizens"]

[Text] On the evening of 3 August IZVESTIYA's correspondent called the USSR Foreign Ministry to find out how the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has affected the lives of our compatriots who are in that country. This is what we were told.

Despite the fact that communications with Kuwait are now broken, the USSR Foreign Ministry is maintaining round-the-clock contacts with the USSR Embassy in Kuwait City. The central question is the safety of Soviet citizens working at various institutions on that country's territory. This question has been carefully studied at internal conferences which examined aspects of the so-called fall-back options—to put it simply, measures aimed at preventing incidents.

The USSR Foreign Ministry has not yet received a single alarming report from the embassy. No Soviet citizens have been reported wounded, missing, or affected in any other way. The question of evacuating the staffers of Soviet institutions in Kuwait or their families was not raised: There was no significant reason to do so.

Since the airspace of both Kuwait and Iraq is closed because of the hostilities, Aeroflot is not now flying to those countries. According to USSR Foreign Ministry information no aircraft or ships from our country have found themselves blockaded at any Kuwaiti port in the last few days.

USSR Foreign Ministry staffers assured the editorial office that in the event of the arrival of new information they will be prepared to share it with IZVESTIYA.

Ministry Welcomes Withdrawal Plan

LD0408100990 Moscow TASS in English 106 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 4 TASS—An official spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry said today, commenting on what he described as an "encouraging" Iraqi statement of intention to begin withdrawing forces from Kuwait on August 5, that this will certainly be welcomed by the Soviet Union and the world community at large.

"If this encouraging statement is supported by real measures, this would mean the start of implementaion of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 660 and of settlement of the acutest crisis in the Persian Gulf, which has caused worry to the entire world," he said.

Ukraine Denounces Invasion

LD0308183190 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] At the end of today's session of the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, deputies adopted a statement denouncing Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

Reportage on Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait Continues

U.S. Tanker Crew Captured

LD0408180990 Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 4 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Alekey Berezhkov]

[Text] Washington August 4 TASS—Iraqi troops captured the crew of the U.S. tanker Seawolf in the port of Kuwait on Saturday, ASSOCIATED PRESS reports. Twenty Americans were taken from the vessel, and their whereabouts are unknown.

It was also reported that the Iraqi troops had captured two Iranian ships.

120 Iraqi Officers Executed

LD0408060590 Moscow TASS in English 0553 GMT 4 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Malyarov]

[Text] Cairo August 4 TASS—One hundred and twenty Iraqi officers were executed by firing squad last night for describing the Iraqi aggression against neighbouring Kuwait as a crime, the newspaper AL-AHRAM reported today.

It said the military tribunal's death sentences on them were endorsed personally by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Troops Approach Saudi Border

LD0408153690 Moscow TASS in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] London August 4 TASS—The Iraqi troops, occupying a major part of the Kuwaiti territory, are consolidating their positions and approaching the Kuwaiti-Saudi border.

They invaded an oil-rich neutral zone, situated between Iraq and Saudi Arabia to the west from Kuwait, and drove workers from there, REUTER reports. At present Iraqi troops are in the neutral zone, near the Saudi border.

Armed resistance to the invaders is continuing in some areas of Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Leader Remains in Hiding

LD0508201290 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] The leadership of Kuwait continues to run the affairs of the country, and its headquarters are in a safe place. This has been said in an interview with the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA by the Kuwaiti ambassador in Moscow, 'abd al-Mohsen Yusuf al-Du'ayj. It is from this leadership, the ambassador stressed, that the Kuwaiti Embassy in the USSR and other countries have been regularly getting guiding instructions.

Kuwaiti News Official Interviewed on Casualties

LD0408201590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1900 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Interview with Khalid al-Tarrah, Moscow bureau chief of the Kuwaiti News Agency, KUNA, by correspondent Radzevich on 4 August; place not given—interview conducted in English with superimposed Russian translation; recorded]

[Text] [Radzevich] When did you first hear about the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi troops?

[Al-Tarrah] The news came in at about midnight on Wednesday. The Iraqi troops came very close to the capital.

[Radzevich] How many people were killed at the beginning of the conflict among the civilian population?

[Al-Tarrah] Because of the suddenness of the invasion, it is very hard to give an accurate figure. But on Thursday, when the Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, we can say about 500 people, including 200 civilians. At the beginning of their invasion of Kuwait, Iraq seized important facilities in Kuwait, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. And the Iraqis opened fire even on unarmed people. This explains the high figure of those killed among the civilian population. We have not received any information since then here in

Moscow, because Iraq has cut off all links with Moscow and also with other countries and Kuwait. This is completely unacceptable interference by Iraq in Kuwait.

'Expert' Evaluates Soviet Interests in Crisis

LD0508135990 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0630 GMT 5 Aug 90

[From the "World Clock" program]

[Excerpts] Another of those concerned in the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict—if only because of its geographical situation—is the Soviet Union. Our Moscow correspondent, Jozsef Barath, spoke on the telephone to (Igor Belyayev) one of the most renowned experts of the region. [passage omitted]

[Begin Belyayev recording in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation] As far as the Soviet Union's standpoint is concerned, we take as our starting point that any spark that might inflame the fire of crisis in the region of the Persian Gulf is dangerous for us too. This region is near to our southern borders. You know what is going on in Afghanistan. You know what is going on in our country, in the Caucasus, in the Central Asian republics. We want peace in this region. Our hope is to put out this fire as soon as possible. [end recording]

Peace Committee Protests Iraqi Actions

LD0308164190 Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—The Soviet peace committee has protested against the gross violation of Kuwait's sovereignty and expressed anxiety that military force was again used to settle differences between states in the Persian Gulf, where an exhausting war, fraught with serious consequences for the region and the world at large has been waged for eight years.

"This military adventure can lead to an unpredictable escalation of tensions in the Middle East, in the hotbed of largest regional and international conflict. It totally contradicts the spirit of common sense and reason, which asserts itself, with such difficulty, in the consciousness of mankind, the committee said in a statement.

The peace committee called on the United Nations and the Arab League to take resolute actions in order to put an end to the aggression, to stop combat operations and to secure the unconditional and swift withdrawal Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Commentaries Condemn Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

'Isolation, Sanctions' Imposed

LD0308123490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Commentary by Boris Pakhomenko]

[Text] As a matter of professional self-criticism, I must admit that the day before yesterday, in one of my regular reviews of international events, I expressed doubts as to the authenticity of reports which had appeared in the Western press that Iraq had concentrated a 100,000-strong strike force of invasion troops on the border with Kuwait. One simply could not understand how an enormous state, with a million-strong, well-trained army, which has had eight years of experience of a recent war with Iran, could attack a small country, whose armed strength hardly exceeds 20,000 men, attack a recent ally which rendered billions in aid to Iraq to cover its colossal military expenditure, attack a state with whom Iraq shares membership of the Islamic Conference Organization, the Arab League, and OPEC, and, finally, the United Nations. It had appeared that the time of wars of conquest of strong states against weak ones had been assigned to the distant past, and that the refusal to solve political and economic disputes by way of arms had become an indisputable axiom. But apparently not: The atavistic idea that the strong can do what they like to the weak has prevailed over common sense, over respect for the norms of international law and, finally, over the sense of elementary justice. The blood of innocent people has been shed on the soil of Kuwait. Iraqi tanks have blocked the streets and squares of the Kuwaiti capital. The lawful government of the country has been deposed.

In Baghdad's scheme of things, the easy victory over a recent ally and creditor cuts at one stroke the Gordian knot of all problems, relieves Iraq of its billions of debt, resolves its territorial disputes to its own advantage, and reaffirms its right to huge material compensation.

However, it seems to me that in precisely this self-confidence and arrogant sense of superior strength lies the strategic miscalculation of the Iraqi leadership. This is shown, first and foremost, by the instant, unanimous reaction of the whole world community. Iraq's actions have already been resolutely condemned by many states of the world, including the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Great Britain, the member-countries of the European Community, the majority of the Arab countries, and all members of the UN Security council, with the exception of the Yemen, and numerous public and non-governmental organizations. Demands are being made everywhere for an urgent convocation of the Security Council to take measures to settle the conflict. Economic sanctions are being imposed. The United States and Great Britain have spoken about freezing Iraqi assets in their banks. The Soviet Union and France have suspended arms supplies to Iraq. Emergency measures by the OPEC countries are not ruled out in this respect, either.

Condemnation, isolation, sanctions—these are the first real results of the unprovoked armed conflict unleashed by Baghdad. And one other thing: The local conflict between the two states threatens to grow into a major regional feud, or at worst acquire an international nature which would be hard to control. The Iranian leadership

has already stated that it cannot remain indifferent to the development of events. A strike detachment of ships of the U.S. Navy, headed by the aircraft-carrier Independence, has already entered the Persian Gulf. To prevent a further dangerous development of the conflict and to take steps to eliminate tension in the region—this is what the international public now expects from the Iraqi leadership.

Regional Stability Threatened

LD0308130790 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS political news analyst Albert Balebanov]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Iraq's armed attack on its neighbour, the tiny Kuwait, is an action that is not to be tolerated in present-day interstate relations.

From the juridical viewpoint Baghdad's actions can only be viewed as an aggression against a sovereign state.

Iraq's decision to send troops into Kuwait deserves to be condemned. It is also deplorable that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn ignored the unambiguously expressed readiness of the amir of Kuwait Jabr Al-Sabah to look for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

It is asserted in Baghdad that Kuwait provoked the conflict when it, jointly with the United Arab Emirates, violated OPEC quotas. It is said in Baghdad that they surpassed the quotas for oil extraction, pushing down prices. The lower prices hurt the Iraqi economy, already weakened by the nine-year-long war against Iran.

Even if this scenario played true, which Kuwait, incidentally, denies, Iraq should have refrained from using force against the country that supplied it with funds during the war against Iran.

The Western press estimates that Iraq owes no less than $15 billion to Kuwait. This sum is much larger that the value of all the oil that Iraq's President Husayn claims Kuwait "stole from Iraq." (That oil could not have cost over $2.4 billion.)

One gets the impression that Baghdad deliberately started the conflict with Kuwait to resolve at one go all its acute political and economic problems: to boost the price of crude oil, to get from Kuwait $2.4 billion in compensation, to write off its $15 billion debts and thus drastically curtail its overall foreign debt, assessed at $80 billion.

Baghdad apparently also wants to take control of the oil-rich Bubiyan Island in the Persian Gulf, which is the issue of Iraq's long-standing dispute with Kuwait.

Iraq is turning into a permanent source of tension in a region already plagued by prolonged conflict.

Iraq's aggression against Kuwait is not just a war between two Arab countries. Iraq's hostilities threaten peace and stability in the region. They alter the balance of forces in the Middle East and have boosted oil prices, which in turn heralds serious economic consequences for petroleum-importing countries.

The Iraq-Kuwait armed conflict runs counter to the interests of Arab countries and to positive tendencies towards the improvement of the internal climate. No disputes, however complicated, warrant the use of force.

Motives of Invasion Examined

PM0308141590 Moscow KOMSOMOSLKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 3 Aug 90 p 3

[Commentary by A. Shumilin: "The Armor Is Strong, and the Tanks Are Ours. Iraqi Troops Have Invaded Kuwait and Occupied the Capital"]

[Text] For the first time in the years of the region's independent development, the capital of an Arab state has been occupied by the troops of a neighboring "fraternal country."

The crisis erupted, as people will know, two weeks ago, when Iraq's President Saddam Husayn accused Kuwait's leaders of exploiting small oil wells in disputed border regions and demanded "compensation" of $2.4 billion (?!), and at the same time the write-off of Iraqi loan debts (on the order of $15 billion) granted by Kuwait during the Iraq-Iran war and Kuwait's relinquishment of the island of Bubyan in the Persian Gulf. It was then that the first threats to use force were sounded. Strike forces of the Iraqi Army—the most powerful in the region—began to concentrate on the border with Kuwait.

However, it seems that few people, either in Kuwait itself or in other Arab countries, believed that these threats could be carried out. Egypt and Saudi Arabia acted as mediators in an attempt to settle the crisis. "This is a temporary discord," was how Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-Sabah described the prevailing situation the other day. "We," he went on, "are seeking lasting peace through a settlement of the problem of oil, finance, and territory." Such was the brief commentary by the head of the Kuwaiti delegation at the talks between Kuwait and Iraq which started Tuesday in the city of Jeddah. "Iraq expects confirmation of its rights rather than talk about 'fraternity and solidarity' from the meeting in Jeddah", was the commentary by the Baghdad newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH at that time. The talks ended ineffectually, and the Iraqi tanks moved on the Kuwaiti capital. The small Kuwaiti Army (Iraq's Armed Forces are estimated at one million men, Kuwait's at 20,000) did put up restistance to the invasion forces yesterday. The capital was subjected to rocket and aerial bombardment. Arab radio stations reported numerous Kuwaiti casualties.

We are undoubtedly dealing here with armed aggression against a sovereign state. Aggression against a militarily weak country which had unambiguously confirmed its readiness in recent days to seek a peaceful solution to the

crisis. "An economic giant but a military dwarf," Kuwait was ready, as reliable sources in the country reported, to go along with certain substantial financial demands by Baghdad. "Peace increases our revenue, war reduces it," this has been said by many highly placed officials of the Emirate. And this is true. For the source of Kuwait's prosperity is oil.

Let us recall how OPEC, including Kuwait, increased the price of oil the other day to $21 a barrel. It is perfectly clear that this was an attempt by the oil-producing states to conciliate Baghdad, which had accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of "exceeding OPEC oil-extraction quotas and thereby depressing world oil prices." According to Kuwaiti figures, there can be no question of the emirate having exceeded its quota: Kuwait's quota is fixed within the range of nine percent, while in actual fact extraction has not exceeded 6.5 percent in recent years.

What, then, really spurred Baghdad to this act of war? Was it not the desire to solve, at its small neighbor's expense, its own financial problems by a means that is highly unexpected in our times? This is undoubtedly the case, and is evidenced by the fact that the Central Bank of Kuwait was among the most important installations immediately occupied by Iraqi troops. But there are, I think, motives that are equally, if not more, important: After all, the financial problems, as Kuwaiti sources indicate, could have been resolved through negotiation, that is to say, by civilized means. I am sure that this present act of unprecedented aggression should be regarded as another manifestation of Baghdad's blatantly hegemonist policy in the region, a manifestation of the logic of strong-arm pressure, the logic of disregard of world public opinion. Scarcely had Baghdad ended the war with Iran before it was hurrying to present itself as the "defender of pan-Arab interests," a country which should not only have its "financial debts written off" by the other Arab countries but have, to say the least, its "corresponding role" in international affairs recognized. Such thinking is buttressed by a powerful army whose strengthening and modernization is accorded paramount attention by the regime. It can only be regretted that military hardware supplied to Iraq by the USSR over the years has constituted the basis of that military might. Yes, we are not, as it were, accustomed to arms supplied by the Soviet Union sometimes being used by the recipient countries not at all for the purposes stipulated in the agreements, namely, to defend themselves against an external enemy. Or being used to foment regional conflicts to satisfy the ambitious designs of shortsighted politicians.

One can say for certain that Iraq's unprecedented aggression against Kuwait will deepen the split in the community of Arab states and will exert a crucial influence upon the development of the situation in the Near East.

Economic Consequences Eyed

LD0308231390 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 2000 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] The Soviet Union's quick and determined reaction to the Iraqi incursion into Kuwait was identical to that of the Western community, our commentator Nikolay Gratsianov writes. The concern of the Western countries, especially the European ones, is easily explainable: The Middle East is a kind of barometer which to a considerable extent measures the pulse of the economic life of the West European countries by virtue of their traditional dependence on the Middle East's oil. The present developments in the Persian Gulf have instantly caused a rise in oil prices, while in the West's stockmarkets both gold and the U.S. dollar went up.

But the West European countries' condemnation of Iraq's aggression and demand for the immediate withdrawal of its troops from Kuwaiti territory—expressed both individual and through an organization like the Common Market—are not prompted solely by economic considerations. The Middle East is a hot-spot where any conflict leads to tensions involving West European countries and the United States. Recall, for instance, the Iran-Iraq war, Lebanon, and other events in the Mediterranean region, all of which upset stability and increased the Western countries' military presence in the conflict areas.

Likewise in the present case, the United States has already started to enhance its naval might in the Persian Gulf. Are we witnessing yet another show a strength? I believe that developments can be reversed. In our times Europe stands as an example of the possibility of peaceful political and economic cooperation and of renunciation of military confrontation. This in turn enhances the possibility of interaction with a view to ending regional conflicts outside Europe.

In this connection there is significance in the understanding achieved between the USSR and the United States on issuing a joint declaration in connection with Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. This move has improved the chances of settling the conflict in the spirit of the positive trend of improvement in international relations, which we have been observing of late.

Relations Require Reexamination

PM0308193690 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 4

[By Konstantin Geyvandov "Political Observer's Opinion" under the general heading "Following Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait": "The Strong Always Blame the Powerless"]

[Text] In recent years this moral of Krylov's has been proved true with increasing frequency, sometimes making us doubt whether we are really approaching the end of the 20th century or still living in the 19th. The events in Kuwait are an example of this....

So our worst fears have been borne out. Saber-rattling has escalated into an open military invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. It was well known beforehand that, when faced by the million-strong Iraqi Army, the Kuwaiti Army would be like the lamb that the big bad wolf dragged into the forest.

But what was not known was the Iraqi's genuine intentions with regard to their neighbor. It had seemed that all the claims which the Iraqi Government had put to Kuwait over the past few weeks—the problem of war debts, the question of compensation for losses incurred from overproduction of oil, and the border disputes—could have been examined and settled through talks.

Initially people everywhere were sure that this was the way things were headed. Nobody suspected that it was a question of something far bigger. The question of a neighbor replacing one regime by another is not, of course, something that can be settled by negotiations. The latest confirmation that in practice things are done differently was provided by Iraq's actions in "fraternal" Kuwait.

For me there is no justification for such behavior by the Iraqi authorities. Although I cannot claim that it is unprecedented in the modern practice of international relations. I say this not to in any way gloss over the illegality of the anti-Kuwaiti action. Armed intervention is armed intervention, and it deserves to be condemned.

The question now is different: What happens next? For us Soviet people this question gives rise to a whole series of other more specific questions. The current tragic turn of events in relations between Iraq and Kuwait concerns two states and peoples with which we have maintained and developed friendly relations. With Iraq these relations go so deep that a treaty of friendship and cooperation was concluded between our countries. Hence the painful question: Can our relations continue to develop on the basis of the principles enshrined in that treaty following what has happened? And are we not entitled—if we can still be considered friends—to ask Iraq to return to the position that existed before 1 August, get around the negotiating table with Kuwait, and resolve all disputes by political means?

I hope that the next few days will provide the answer to these and many other questions prompted by the Iraqi authorities' actions.

U.S.-USSR Reaction Viewed

LD0408105890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0720 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] [Announcer Gennadiy Vedenyapin] My colleague Viktor Levin has just joined me here in the studio. First I should like to remind you that yesterday U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Moscow from Ulaanbatar to hold urgent consultations with Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze in connection with the execerbation of the situation in the Persian Gulf area that has been brought about, as you know, by the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces. At the end of their meeting which took place directly at the airport and heads of the foreign affairs departments of the two countries made a joint statement at a news conference for Soviet and foreign journalists and answered their questions. My colleague Viktor Levin was at this news conference in the capacity of our diplomatic correspondent. I would now like to hand over to him. Please carry on.

[Levin] Well, first of all I would like to speak about the atmosphere that existed at the news conference. Take the following detail. At first Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze said a few words about why such an emergency meeting with the secretary of state had been necessary and then read the text of a joint statement. After starting to read it he noted that there would be no translation since afterwards the same text in English would be read by Secretary of State James Baker.

[Vedenyapin] That is to say, the texts were identical.

[Levin] The texts were certainly absolutely identical, but the very character of the way in which they were presented emphasized, as it were, the fact that this joint text—both the Soviet one and the English one—is an unprecedented phenomenon in our political life.

[Vedenyapin] I rather think it is the first of its kind.

[Levin] That is certainly so, and it is extremely important that both sides now are appealing for peace and appealing for common sense. I would now like to note the following from Eduard Amvrosiyevich's subsequent statements when the discussion with journalists was already under way. What is happening in Kuwait—and he had in mind Iraq's aggression against Kuwait—is at variance with the new political thinking and civilized relations between states.

During the news conference both Soviet and U.S. journalists repeatedly asked the following: well, okay, the Soviet Union is halting the supply of armaments, the United States has frozen all bank assets, and a number of political measures are being adopted, but what else will be done if Iraq does not withdraw its forces? There was an identical reply from both Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze and from James Baker. They said that there is no need to try and guess in advance. It is not necessary now to decide what might be in the event of something that might still not happen.

In general the very clear hope was expressed that the Iraqi leadership would nevertheless—or rather, as Eduard Amvrosiyevich put it, we hope that the Iraqi leadership will have the courage, resolution, and political wisdom to rid its own people and the world community of this unpleasant situation.

Incidentally, Eduard Amvrosiyevich discovered that back on the second of the month a message was sent to Saddam Husayn, president of Iraq, from the Soviet

Union, and contacts have been under way at the diplomatic level. There have been discussions in Moscow with the Iraqi Ambassador, and in Baghdad the Soviet ambassador has been talking with the Iraqi authorities. That is to say, we have been taking very energetic actions, but are striving to do all this within the framework of civilised relations.

Iraqi Action Unexpected

LD0508133690 Moscow in Persian 1500 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Commentary by analyst Leonid Rassadin on "blatant aggression" by Iraq against Kuwait]

[Text] I admit I was taken aback by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in the small hours of 2 August. I hoped that the dispute between the two Arab states would be settled by peaceful means. I was mistaken. The Iraqi leadership headed by President Saddam Husayn, who is often described as the most unpredictable political leader in the Middle East, decided to launch an invasion. A huge Iraqi force, armed to teeth, has overrun the little neighboring country.

The Soviet Union took at once, an unequivocal position. It resolutely condemned Baghdad's aggression and demanded an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. A similar call was made on Iraq by the United Nations Security Council. The United States secretary of state, James Baker, made a short visit to Moscow. He held urgent consultations at the airport with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. The two ministers made a joint statement in which they described Iraq's action as a violation of all norms of civilized conduct and called on the world community to unite in ceasing all military supplies to Iraq. The Soviet Union and the United States stressed in that unprecedented statement that the sovereignty, national independence, the lawful government and territorial integrity of Kuwait should be fully restored and guaranteed.

Iraq's aggression has been sharply condemned by practically the whole world.

It is still difficult to say clearly how events will develop in the future. Radio Kuwait, which is under Iraq's control, has reported that Iraq started the withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait today.

When journalists kept returning, somewhat inopportunely I would say, to the question of the possibility of using military force to put a stop to these actions, Baker said that it is not expedient to try and guess in advance what various options may be adopted. You know, I see two factors involved in this. Well, the first, purely outward factor that I would refer to is a striving to facilitate a correct and sensible solution on the part of the Iraqi leadership. There is no point, as they say, in driving someone into a corner and presenting him with conditions that would complicate further a solution of the problem.

[Vedenyapin] No, indeed, especially as, you will agree, the use of force is in general an argument that comes last in the sequence of levers that can be used to resolve a situation.

[Levin] Here I come to the second factor. I absolutely agree with you that it comes last of all and is extremely undesirable. In making this joint statement and this joint appeal to Iraq and to the world community, incidentally, to support their actions, which is very important, the Soviet Union and the United States are appealing to common sense and are by no means intending to take upon themselves the role of some kind of international policemen, or, if you like, gendarmes, who are ready to use a big stick or some such thing to see that common sense triumphs. You know, life in general shows that it is impossible to achieve a sensible solution by military means. That is a very important point.

A further emotional factor that I would like to mention is the fact that prior to the start of the news conference the spokesman for the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry and the press attache from the U.S. embassy made the following brief statement to all the journalists, or more accurately, gave out the following information. They explained where the microphones were situated and said: we have agreed that the first question will be asked by a Kuwaiti journalist; and all those present—there being quite a lot of us—were completely understanding in our attitude to this sympathy for the victim of aggression.

Eduard Amvrosiyevich emphasized several times that he had not even imagined that there could be such a development of events. In Irkutsk he and Baker had had discussions and Baker had been expressing concern over the concentration of Iraqi forces on Kuwait's border, but Eduard Amvrosiyevich said: I honestly admit that I did not think that matters would come to this—that Iraq would attack this peace-loving and defenseless country that threatens no one. To my mind this gesture also very much characterized the atmosphere. That is to say, it is the appeal to common sense that I should like to emphasize regarding the importance of this news conference.

Withdrawal Urged 'Unconditionally'

LD0608132590 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Commentary by Aleksandr Pogrom on the situation resulting from the "incursion" of Iraqi troops into Kuwait]

[Text] The situation is extremely complicated and dangerous, but not hopeless. A positive factor of foremost importance is the common stand taken by the Soviet Union and the United States. The two countries strongly condemned Iraq's action which runs counter to the

United Nations' principles and international law. The USSR and the United States have resorted to an unusual step: they have jointly urged the world community to suspend all arms shipments to Iraq.

Judging by response, the world has welcomed the constructive and resolute stand taken by the USSR, which decided to stop at once all military supplies to Iraq. As the Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said, it was not easy for Moscow to take that decision in view of its good relations with Iraq that had formed for decades. But by its incursion into Kuwait, Iraq trampled upon the principles of civilized relations between the countries and the Soviet Union could not have reacted differently.

The joint reaction on the part of the USSR and the United States is an unprecedented step in the history of regional conflicts and a visual example of the principle of: from mutual understanding to partnership, worked out during top level Soviet-American meetings. It's noteworthy that interaction between the two superpowers contributed to consolidating the world community's efforts at the United Nations and determined to a great extent the resolute stand taken by the Security Council.

The situation remains extremely strained, of course. Reports from Baghdad as to the partial withdrawal of troops don't alter the matter essentially. All troops must be removed from Kuwait unconditionally. Kuwait's sovereignty, national independence, lawful government and territorial integrity should be fully restored and ensured. Unfortunately there's no consensus in the Arab world in the approch to this acute problem. For instance, Baghdad's allies are seeking to undermine the endeavors aimed at convening urgently an Arab summit designed to deal with the Iraqi incursion, and this complicates the situation considerably since Arab unity is a key factor to normalize the situation in the Persian Gulf area.

Israeli Reaction Highlighted

TA0408060790 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Commentary by Dmitriy Prokofyev]

[Text] Now, dear listeners, here is another commentary on events in the Middle East—Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and Israel's position. The following is Dmitriy Prokofyev's commentary:

[Words indistinct] is that Jerusalem is currently carefully taking stock of the new reality in the Middle East. Indeed, things are substantially different now. [Words indistinct] we witnessed a war between the Arabs, an all-out war between two Arab countries. The split in the Arab world has reached new, unprecedented peaks. The Arab League, which was summoned for an urgent session, was immediately paralyzed. This is not surprising because at no time before was it confronted with such a situation. One of the [words indistinct] is that the Israeli leadership now has mixed feelings; it may even bank on the more positive results. It issued a rather formal condemnation of these phenomena. Both Mr. Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin calm the public, arguing that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait will not harm Israel's national interests.

On the face of things it would appear that they have good reason to maintain that position: There are at least two arguments in support of their claim that this has worked in Israel's favor. First, the entire world reacted sharply and with fury to the (?hooliganism) demonstrated by the Iraqi operation. This relegates the Palestinian issue to a secondary place, particularly since—the way I see things now—Israeli diplomats will now lump the PLO and Iraq together, as all the latest meetings of the Palestinian leadership were held in Baghdad. Second, the predicament of Hafiz al-Asad, Saddam's chief rival, is currently very grave. If the Syrians maintain most of their troops on the Golan and the Jordan Rift Valley, they will be unable to feel secure. And, after all, it stands to reason that in the next stage the Iraqi strongman will attack Syria, if he is not held in check by the United Nations, the Arab League, or the superpowers. Yet my impression, at least, is that Saddam Husayn is not [word indistinct].

Still, in general, it has already become a tradition in Jerusalem to regard any rift in the Arab world as something positive. Yet I presume that a deeper analysis of the prevailing situation could also lead to other conclusions. The Iraqi conquest of Kuwait will no doubt strengthen those Arab world forces which still believe that conflicts that cannot be resolved by force can and must be resolved by use of even greater force.

The Israelis are even more acutely aware than I am of the fact that there is an abundance of extremists in the Middle East. As for Syria, I believe it will not be prepared to sign an agreement with Egypt simply because the Iraqi threat is more imminent. This is because Hafiz al-Asad views Jerusalem and Baghdad as actually being the same, as well as because Syria has a mutual assistance pact with the USSR and Saddam Husayn knows its terms very well.

As for the split in the Arab world, which was found to be true—and no one doubts this—it will be good for Israel only in one case: in case of war. On the other hand, it absolutely rules out the possibility of a peace agreement. Yet peace with its neighbors is a pressing need, now perhaps more so than ever before, particularly in light of the fact that the Iraqi strongman is ready to engage in any dangerous adventure.

'Hegemonist' Foreign Policy Cited

PM0508133790 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[Commentary by A. Zhukov under the general heading "Iraq-Kuwait: Oil Conflict": "Our Commentary"]

[Text] The conflict in Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations arose more than two weeks ago when Baghdad accused the Kuwaiti authorities of exceeding OPEC oil extraction quotas and thus reducing world oil prices, which strikes at the Iraqi economy. Iraq demanded that Kuwait agree to a demarcation of the border between the two countries on Baghdad's terms, pay compensation of $2.4 billion for oil allegedly extracted by Kuwait from Iraqi fields, and also write off Iraq's multibillion debt to Kuwait.

The talks in Jeddah that began as a result of Egyptian and Saudi mediatory efforts were not successful owing to Iraq's refusal to compromise. However, the reasons for the current bloody conflict go much deeper. They reside in the hegemonist nature of the Iraqi leadership's foreign policy course over the last decade.

The coming to power in Iraq in the late-1970's of its incumbent president, S. Husayn, was accompanied by an unprecedented campaign where all dissent, not to mention any potential shoots of opposition, was physically annihilated. Thousands of Iraqi communists disappeared in the torture chambers of the regime's security forces. A sea of blood flooded Iraq's northern regions—Kurdistan—when government troops began to implement the policy of assimilating the Kurds, with Baghdad's blessing.

Endless purges within the army and the organs of power, including the top echelon—the Revolutionary Command Council—accompanied by public executions caused still embryonic oppositionists to keep quiet and strengthened the president's absolute dictatorship once and for all.

Obviously, considering the situation within the country to be unacceptable in the context of his own regime's security, the Iraqi dictator directed his gaze to his neighbors, who at that time had a far better life than the Iraqis themselves.

At the time a revolution had taken place in Iran, and the economy and military might of Baghdad's age-old rival in the region were weakened to the limit. People in the Iraqi capital immediately recalled 500 square kilometers of disputed territory on the border, and, instead of an easy blitzkrieg the endless marathon of the Iran-Iraq conflict began, in which, incidentally, Iraq in conditions of economic decline and falling oil prices was only able to stand its ground owing to generous aid from its neighbors, above all Kuwait.

But times are changing. The Iran-Iraq conflict ended with a truce, and the Baghdad regime's internal economic position has begn to recover. As a result of a general change in the world political climate the Americans have reduced their military presence in the region. So Baghdad's sights have once again turned to its rich neighbors.

Tension in the Persian Gulf is not abating. The Soviet Government statement rightly points out that this turn of events fundamentally contravenes the interests of the Arab states, creates additional obstacles in the way of a settlement of the conflict situations in the Near East, and runs counter to the positive trends of improvement in the international economy.

Pakistan's Leader Dismissed, Government Disolved

LD0608143690 Moscow TASS in English 1423 GMT 6 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladislav Legantsov]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of Pakistan announced today that he is dissolving the National Assembly and dismissing Benazir Bhutto's government.

Elections to the National Assembly were set for October 24, 1990.

Ishaq Khan appointed opposition leader Mustafa Jatoi as Pakistan's acting prime minister. He will address the nation on radio and television this evening.

Baker, Shevardnadze Seek Afghanistan Resolution

TA0608071590 Moscow in Dari to Afghanistan 1500 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Commentary by Sergey Viktorov from the "World Today" program]

[Text] Dear listeners: A statement has been issued on the results of the meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Among other things, the positions of the two sides on the Afghan problem were noted in this statement. Our commentator Sergey Viktorov writes on this:

As is being observed, the issue of Afghanistan figured prominently in the Shevardnadze-Baker talks at Irkutsk. This was reflected in the document issued following the meeting which dealt with the meeting's results. The main thing is that the Soviet and U.S. sides reaffirmed their commitment to help in resolving the Afghan problem as soon as possible. In the view of the Soviet Union and the United States, free and fair elections, while taking into consideration Afghan traditions, can constitute the principal mechanism for such a solution. The two sides believe that it is necessary to hold such elections under UN supervision and active participation.

It is a source of pleasure to note that the Soviet Union and the United States have identical positions on many of the key elements of the plan for resolving the situation in Afghanistan. For example, they acknowledge the need of establishing an interim period and forming a widely represented organ of cohesion. In the view of the two ministers this organ should be tasked with organizing elections and resolving some other problems related to the interim period. Moreover, the Soviet Union and the United States believe that in order to maintain public order and secure the necessary conditions for holding elections a special force can be established under (?this organ's command).

It is important to note that the Soviet Union and the United States attach great importance to conducting subsequent close consultations with all the sides involved in this conflict. This will contribute to formulating compromising variants about still unresolved issues. In other words, both sides believe that the main role in resolving the Afghan conflict depends on the Afghans themselves. The Soviet and U.S. ministers noted that both countries will continue to work toward settling the Afghan problem. They have still not exhausted all their potentials and will strive to cooperate on this issue at a higher level.

All this fosters the hope that a final agreement on the Afghan problem will be reached in the near future between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Afghan Economic Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD0308140190 Moscow TASS in English 1352 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—A protocol of the ninth session of the Soviet-Afghan Permanent Intergovernmental Commission for Economic Cooperation was signed here today.

The commission considered the results of the work of the Soviet and Afghan organisations to maintain economic contacts between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. It drew a conclusion that these contacts and cooperation, maintained with due regard for the interests of the two sides, continued to develop in the new situation as well.

The Afghan side noted that Soviet Afghan cooperation is an important factor of economic life and objectively has an effect on the national reconciliation processes.

The commission mapped out specific measures to further Soviet-Afghan economic and trade cooperation, emphasising that the training of Afghan national personnel as well as the expansion of contacts with Afghan national enterpreneurs are of great importance in this respect.

Official Comments on Afghan Commission, Aid

LD0308170490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Interview with Igor Sergeyevich Belousov, USSR Council of Ministers deputy chairman, by "Vremya" correspondant Goryanov, from the "Vremya" newscast; place and date not given]

[Text] [Announcer] USSR cooperation with the developing countries, particularly in providing them with economic aid, today costs Soviet taxpayers more than R26 billion. Moreover, no one has yet proved that expenditure on assistance to Third World countries is subject to rationally chosen political and foreign economic purposes. In connection with this, here is a video report from our correspondent Goryanov, who has been to a session of the permanent intergovernmental Soviet-Afghan commission on economic cooperation, which closed today in Moscow.

[Goryanov] Precise figures of the scale of Soviet aid to Afghanistan have so far been extremely difficult to track down in the press. From the scant data published in the USSR, it amounts to almost R2 billion per year. According to Western estimates, from $3-4 billion. Definitive figures were not heard on this occasion, either. According to the results of the commission's work, the Soviet side, on the whole, has acknowledged the obligations assumed in accordance with the agreement of 1988, as it was formulated in the final document, on the development of mutually beneficial Soviet-Afghan trade and economic relations, including in such areas as petroleum processing, the chemicals and gas industries, agriculture, the power industry, and the social sphere. Judging by the protocol signed on economic cooperation for 1991, the Soviet side will provide aid for the implementation of specific programs and—a new feature—will provide assistance to the private sector in Afghanistan. [video shows session in progress, signing ceremony]

[I.S. Belousov] The main thing to be done now, in 1990, and, of course, in 1991, is to restore the cooperation and work of our specialists working in the national economy in Afghanistan, in order to facilitate the development of the work of these Afghan enterprises, so that they can work more intensively and more profitably for their people. Therefore, it is important for us that a significant number of our Soviet specialists resume work in Afghanistan this year.

[Goryanov] Igor Sergeyevich, the protocol signed within the framework of this long-term agreement—does this protocol provide for new weapons supplies to the Afghan Goivernment, bearing in mind that for a long time you were responsible for our defense industry?

[Belousov] As far as our talks which we have been conducting with our Afghan friends are concerned, all negotiations and all questions without exception pertained to cooperation regarding the national economy. We discussed no questions whatsoever of the supply of weapons, arms, and military hardware. We did not discuss these matters at all. We concentrated all our attention on issues of the national economy. I think that this was a good orientation of our work. Useful and necessary.

[Goryanov] Igor Sergeyevich, very frequently the appellation "mutually beneficial cooperation" figures in documents signed by the Soviet side with Afghanistan. Yet, at the same time, even within the framework of the press bulletin distributed today, we constantly find the word aid.

[Belousov] Aid is free. Incidentally, it is not only provided by the Soviet Union. Well, of course, our relations are special. Afghanistan is our close neighbor. We want

the Afghans always to be good neighbours. Therefore, our free aid is considerable. It amounts to R120 million for 1990. But, I immediately want to draw attention to the fact that all of this is provided for in the budget approved by the Supreme Soviet. Free aid is provided for for a number of countries, including that aid which I am talking about. That is to say, we have really switched to a new qualitative level of agreement and discussion of these documents, and the opinion of the Supreme Soviet, of course, including on the matter of cooperation with Afghanistan, will not only be taken into account, but will, of course, be the conclusive opinion.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Somali Government's Goal of Pluralism 'Unclear'

EA0108135490 Moscow International Service in Somali 1600 GMT 29 Jul 90

[From the "East Africa Last Week" program]

[Text] Important political events took place in Somalia last week. A national committee was formed in Mogadishu charged with the responsibility of holding talks with the opposition to find solutions to the economic and security problems facing the country. The seven-man committee includes members of the government and the ruling Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP].

The formation of the national committee is in response to the most important proposal contained in the first Mogadishu manifesto disseminated by the civilian opposition two months ago. In the manifesto, prominent Somali politicians accused the government of Mohamed Siad Barre of being incapable of ending the civil war and leading the country out of chaos. The dissemination of the manifesto resulted in the punishment of 45 of its 100 signatories. The 45 were released last Sunday by the court and were later met by President Mohamed Siad Barre himself. He called on the civilian opposition to cooperate in the national interest. Therefore, the formation of the national committee, which can hold discussions with all civilian political forces, is an indication that the regime is opening a dialogue with the unarmed opposition. If any progress is made in this effort, it could pave the way for general elections involving various parties.

However, the proposals by the regime of Mohamed Siad Barre to move over to political pluralism are not clear so far. The main stumbling block is the armed opposition which has so far been unwilling to hold talks with the regime of Mohamed Siad Barre. Another incident which took place in Somalia is worth noting. On Sunday night, there was a very big explosion in Mogadishu which damaged the EEC building in Mogadishu. There were no casualties. This terrorist act was preceded by several similar incidents. No one has claimed responsibility. This could only mean that the groups opposed to President Barre are striving to maintain a high state of insecurity. The state of insecurity was created by the opposition group which was charged in court and by the shocking incident at the Mogadishu stadium.

Somali Rebels Release Trawler After Fine Paid

PM0408174890 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Morning Edition p7

[Report by S. Mostovshchikov: "Freedom For $250,000"]

[Text] The $250,000 which the Soviet Union transferred to a Bank of England account 31 July helped the crew of the fishing trawler "Kaff", which was captured 18 July in the Gulf of Aden by militants from the Somali National Movement opposition organization. The ship, with 27 Soviet citizens aboard, weighed anchor at 1600 hours Moscow time 2 August and set course for Aden.

During a conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent, Vyacheslav Zilanov, USSR deputy minister of the fish industry, assessed this event as a success for Soviet diplomacy. He said that the Foreign Ministry accomplished quite a difficult job in gaining access to representatives of the Somali opposition grouping and managing to reach a mutually acceptable compromise with them. The people are now free and radio conversations with the captain of the "Kaff" indicate that they are quite willing to carry on working.

However, the deputy minister pointed out that the Ministry of the Fish Industry will not object if the crew decides to take a short vacation and applies to return home. The shipowner—the "Kaliningradrybprom" Oceangoing Fleet's Pionerskiy Base—will make the final decision on the ship's route. At present the "Kaff" intends to dock at Aden to replenish its fuel, water, and food supplies. Radio contacts indicate that they are considerably depleted, since the situation lasted two weeks and there were times when the prisoners had their food and even their personal belongings taken away.

According to Vyacheslav Zilanov, what happened came as a complete surprise to the USSR. There was fishing off Somali shores in 1989 too, but nothing like this happened. The Ministry of the Fish Industry has now decided not to send its ships to this area any more.

Obviously it has become too costly a practice.

South African Trade Delegation Arrives

LD0308095890 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 3 Jul 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Under an agreement with the Ekoprom consortium, a group of South African business executives arrived in the Soviet Union.

They are expected to discuss South African firms' involvement in efforts to deal with the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The group, which includes South African Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism Kent Durr, will focus on

the utilisation of South African technology and equipment to carry out urgent measures to improve the ecological situation in the disaster-affected areas.

East Europe

Gorbachev Sends Personal Letter to GDR's Gysi

LD0108175690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1727 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The CPSU has assured the Party for Democratic Socialism [PDS] of its continued support. In a personal letter from Mikhail Gorbachev to PDS leader Gregor Gysi, sent in mid-June and published on Wednesday, the CPSU general secretary and president of the Soviet Union expressed esteem for the "comradely relations existing between the two parties." "The sympathies and the solidarity of Soviet communists always will belong to the Party of Democratic Socialism."

Gorbachev notes "with satisfaction" that both parties advocate shared positions on German unity. In the process of unification, it depended "to an essential degree" on the "mutual understanding between left-wing forces," striven for by the PDS, "whether the future German state" would move along "the path of democracy and peace." At the same time, the president points out that the Soviet Union still would work "determinedly for its rights, for the interests of European peace, and international security."

Gorbachev Greets Newly Elected Hungarian Leader

LD0308181790 Moscow TASS in English 1805 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—President Mikhail Gorbachev has congratulated Hungarian President Arpad Goncz on being elected to this post.

The message sent to him today expresses hope that relations between the Soviet Union and Hungary "will be based on the common will of our nations to develop constructive goodneighbourly cooperation in the spirit of confidence, equality and mutual advantage, to cooperate actively in the interests of the consolidation of peace and international security" and wishes Goncz success in his work on this high post.

Lukyanov Congratulates Hungarian Counterpart

LD0408172390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Lukyanov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has congratulated Gyorgy Szabad in connection with his election as chairman of the Hungarian State Assembly, and has passed on wishes for success in his important activity for the good of the Hungarian people.

Albanian Foreign Trade Official Interviewed

LD0408184490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Interview with Albanian Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Konstantin Hoxha by correspondent Lyubovtsev from the "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kondrasov] On now to Albanian. Entry to this, the country of mountain eagles, as our journalists used to enjoy calling Albania, has been barred to us since 1961. Having quarrelled with all the other socialist countries but China—and subsequently even with China—for a long time Albania was, and remains, the most isolated state in Europe. Now, though, it is emerging from its self-imposed isolation, and an event of note occured in recent days.

[Lyubovtsev] [passage omitted] At long last, this year there have been indications that Soviet-Albanian relations could get back to normal. How do you see the prospects for the development of economic ties and cooperation between our countries?

[Hoxha] How can I put it? We are pleased that relations between our countries are getting back to normal. By relations I mean all relations, not least economic. As far as our interests are concerned, then of course the Soviet Union is a big country and a country which, to the best of my knowledge, manufacture many things, many goods, and which has large-scale industry. Of course, opportunities are opening up for both sides, so to speak, to cooperate. I would think both of us have an interest in this cooperation in various spheres. I am not very well up on your economizing and your industry at the present time....

[Lyubovtsev, interrupting] Economy?

[Hoxha] Yes, your economy. I am not really up on it. Of course, I have read bits and pieces, and I know a little in general terms, but not the details. However, I would think we have some things that we could export to you. And there are things we could import from you.

[Lyubovtsev] For example?

[Hoxha] Well, as far as I am aware, you are interested in buying fresh produce. As far as I know.

[Lyubovtsev] Agricultural produce?

[Hoxha] Agricultural produce, yes. fresh vegtables, for instance. Fresh fruit. You also buy produce from the food industry, which we also export.

[Lyubovtsev] Yes.

[Hoxha] You might also be interested in our minerals. Our country is rich in minerals, but all the same, perhaps up until the present time we have exported iron and nickel, for example, through third countries. We could,

yes, so that is at the start, through a third country. Things have worked out well that way, but if we have direct contacts, a direct link, then I am sure there will be other opportunities. Then, we are interested in goods from your heavy industry, for instance. We are interested in your (?education). We are interested in your chemical industry. We would purchase such goods from other countries within Europe and outside Europe, but all the same, I would say there is a great interest on both sides: on your side and on ours.

Prospects for Cooperation With Albania Assessed

AU0508170890 Moscow International Service in Albanian 1500 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Dear listeners, you are no doubt aware of all the great changes that have recently taken place in the international arena. Relations between states are being cleansed of old dogmas and of the mistaken suspicions which flow from them. Peace and cooperation among the peoples are becoming everyone's principle aim. However, this demands from all states the ability to organize dialogue and relations in a new way in order to seek and locate new and original solutions in accordance with the interests of all peoples and individuals in safeguarding their lives and work for themselves and their children.

In light of the aforementioned remarks, our observer Vladimir Borisov writes that Soviet-Albanian relations, if it can be put in this way, can become part of the supporting structure of a world without wars and violence. A new stage may be inaugurated in cooperation between the two states for strengthening European security. This was also mentioned in the letter of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to Reis Malile, foreign minister of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, which mentioned participation in the development of the intra-European process. This process must make a reality of all the opportunities foreseen in the basic principles set down in the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Realizing these principles demands cooperation in the creation of a new peaceful structure of Europe which will include security, stability, and what is called the all-European military, political, economic, and humanitarian area. Europe is now at the stage of creating permanent institutions which are a result of the Helsinki process. In this important task, which is a demand of the times, the experience of [word indistinct] is valuable. The Soviet Union is observing with goodwill and understanding the efforts of the states of the Balkan peninsula, including Albania, to organize and conduct dialogue at the regional level and to deepen cooperation in the Balkans as a constituent element of the construction of our common European home.

As it has stressed more than once, the Soviet Union is ready to give all necessary guarantees [words indistinct] to make the decision to make the Balkans a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons. Moscow has supported the recent initiatives of the Balkan states to reduce the level of military activity in the Balkans. It has expressed interest in cooperation with each and every Balkan state in order to solve the regions's current political, economic, ecological, and cultural problems.

The Soviet Union is not indifferent to the situation in the Mediterranean Sea. It takes into consideration the views and opinions of the Mediterranean states on opportunities for improving the political climate there. This is understandable. The Mediterranean is not so far from the Soviet Union's southern borders, and the only sea route connecting southern Soviet ports with the Atlantic passes through it. Moscow wishes the Mediterranean to be a zone of stable peace, good neighborliness, and cooperation. It is not only in the Mediterranean that the Soviet Union pursues such a policy. The creation of a world free from nuclear weapons and violence, and of economic and ecological security have become main pillars of world policy. This opens a wide field for the cooperation of Soviet and Albanian diplomacy. The conduct of international relations (?involves) their enrichment with ideas and projects for the creation of strong and dynamic ties between states, and ways of acting on them. The normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and Albania creates the possibility of giving new impetus to these relations and provides new opportunities for cooperation.

Ogarkov Protests Removal of Polish Monument

LD0408094490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] On Friday evening at a sitting of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Stelmachowski, marshal of the senate, read a letter from Nikolay Ogarkov, marshal of the Soviet Union and chairman of the All-Union Council of Veterans of War, Labor, and the Armed Forces. The letter protests against the dismantling of the monument to Soviet servicemen in Gdynia. This act, the letter says, has given rise to the indignation of Soviet people and all veterans and partisans, especially participants in the liberation of Poland during World War II. Commenting on these communications, Stelmachowski announced that the dismantling of monuments to people who wrote uncharitable pages in Polish history should be clearly seperated from the destruction and defilement of monuments to ordinary soldiers who fought, suffered, and perished.

Yugoslav Central Committee Building Rented

90P50053 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Second Edition p 5

[Article by Ye. Fadeyev: "League of Yugoslav Communists Central Committee Building: For Rent"]

[Text] Belgrad, 3 Aug (PRAVDA)—Two months ago it was announced that the 24-story building of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) Central Committee would not be kept. The crisis in the party, it seems, has been reflected in its financial capabilities as well.

Thus it was decided to lease eight floors of the building to anyone who wished: an enterprise, a department store, an agency, or a private company.

The asking price of 350 dinars (approximately $29) a month per square meter included stock and furniture. The announcement was made, but no "buyers" were found. The asking price was too high. True, there were discussions about the fact that the building might be attractive to the well-known Belgrade firm "Geneks" (two of its fashionable hotels were located right next door). In this case several of the floors of the LCY Central Committee building could be occupied by foreign firms.

Finally an end to all the discussions was reached. The name of the first renter became known. After the price per square meter was reduced to 210 dinars, the 17th floor was "taken" by the Belgrade firm "Grmech."

Thus, the tall building of the headquarters of all the LCY's party organizations remains an adornment of the new Belgrade. But as of 1 August the new owner will become even bigger.

West Europe

FRG's Falin Does Not Oppose U.S. Presence

LD0508183290 Hamburg DPA in German 1755 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—Soviet expert on Germany and Central Committee Secretary Valentin Falin does not reject a U.S. military presence in Europe. He believes that the Germans do not trust themselves, and that they need protection, Falin said, marking the 20th anniversary of the Moscow Treaty in a German-Soviet television debate on ZDF [second German TV channel] on Sunday evening. This could mean that the Americans should remain in Germany to ensure that the Germans will not repeat the mistakes of the past.

UK's Hurd Interviewed on Improving Ties

LD0408164690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Report from London by correspondent V. Shishkovskiy from the "International Panorama" program presented by Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Excerpts] [Konrashov] And now for our first topic from London. The British parliament has taken a break for its recess: With what results? [passage omitted]

[Shishkovskiy] The processes of perestroyka in the Soviet Union and in other countries of Eastern Europe are welcomed in London where it is considered that they will, in many ways, facilitate the strengthening of trust between East and West and will open up favorable prospects for new and important accords. [video shows Shishkovskiy and Hurd conversing, Shishkovskiy continues to speak, Hurd's voice can be heard in English in the background]

Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, stressed this fact in a conversation with me. He noted that relations between our two countries had developed in an exceptionally successful fashion during recent times. Good, useful, and constant contacts have taken shape between the leaders of Great Britain and the Soviet Union. The same may also be said, Douglas Hurd stressed, about his contacts with Mr. Shevardnadze. He proposes to spend some time in Moscow again next month to take part in the two-plus-four talks at the foreign minister level. In a word, British-Soviet ties are expanding, are being filled with new content, and as you yourself see and know, this is being welcomed by the English people who are following with interest the important transformations in the Soviet country and are wishing you success, Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary, said in conclusion.

Gorbachev, French Leader Discuss Kuwait Crisis

LD0508072690 Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and President Francois Mitterrand of France on Saturday had a telephone talk.

They discussed the situation around Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. They noted the importance of the international community's response and assessed the situation as serious. The presidents agreed to continue contacts.

More on June Aeroflot Hijacking to Sweden

Suspect Returned to USSR

LD0308171190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Anatoliy Mikhaylenko, who hijacked an Aeroflot aircraft to Sweden at the end of June after threatening to blow it up, was today handed over to representatives of the USSR's law enforcement bodies. The decision to deport the hijacker was made by the Swedish Government at the start of this week.

Accused Hijacker Interviewed

LD0308220890 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1948 GMT 3 Aug 90

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Announcer] Now, some material just brought in by our correspondent from Sheremetyevo-2.

[Correspondent] Anatoliy Mikhaylenko, who on 30 June hijacked a Tu-154 aircraft to Sweden, originally flying from Lvov to Leningrad, has been brought back to Moscow in handcuffs and under reliable guard. Why did you go on hunger strike? [video shows correspondent, Mikhaylenko speaking at airport]

[Mikhaylenko] So they would not send me back to the USSR.

[Correspondent] There are a lot of viewers watching. From personal experience, would you say it's a good idea to hijack planes from the Soviet Union.

[Mikhaylenko] No, it's not worth it.

[Correspondent] Why did you not want to serve in the Soviet Army?

[Mikhaylenko] I was very frightened.

[Correspondent] Of what?

[Mikhaynelko] Well, by the prospect of army service. I am a weak person; I got frightened, that's all.

[Correspondent] What about your parents, did you think of them?

[Mikhaylenko] Yes, I did. I feel terrible now.

[Correspondent] Anatoliy Mikhaylenko is a former technical college graduate from Lvov, a graphic designer by profession and the eldest of the three who hijacked planes to Sweden. He's 19. Semenev is 13 and Makritsov 18. Semenov has already been handed over to the Soviet authoritiees. Mikhail Makritsov, who is being held in the remand centre at (?Kurnoberg) in Sweden, yesterday tried to commit suicide. He cut his veins with splinters from an electric light bulb but was saved by the Swedish authorities.

Deputy Minister Proposes Increased Turkish Ties

LD0508221490 Moscow World Service in English 2100 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] The first deputy prime minister of the USSR, Lev Voronin, has voiced support for the creation of an economic alliance of the Black Sea States. Speaking in Ankara, where he is on a visit, Voronin pointed out that closer Soviet-Turkish ties was a prerequisite to the foundation of such an alliance. A bilateral economic cooperation agreement was signed in Ankara on Saturday. It provides for boosting trade turnover between the two countries.

Health Delegation From Turkey Ends Visit

NC0308122590 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Excerpt] The first visit to Azerbaijan by a delegation composed of a number of officials of Turkey's health organizations has ended. The visit was the first step in the implementation of a program drawn up for cooperation in medicine and health services between our republic and Turkey. It will be recalled that the health ministers of Turkey and Azerbaijan signed a protocol on mutual relations some time ago.

The first Turkey-Azerbaijan symposium on the current problems of contemporary surgery will be held in Baku in October. The objective of the symposium will be to establish ties not only between the surgeons of Turkey and Azerbaijan but also between their other medical experts. [passage omitted]

Greek Government Denies Claims of U.S. Base Use

LD0608155190 Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT 6 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Malyshev]

[Text] Athens August 6 TASS—The Greek Government has refuted press reports about the use of U.S. military bases in Greece to prepare Washington's response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Official government spokesman Vyron Polidoras told journalists here today that no request was made or granted to "permit American military aircraft to fly freely via Greece's airspace."

The Greek Government stated last week that U.S. bases on the Crete Island could not be used as a springboard for Washington's possible actions in the Persian Gulf.

Latin America & Caribbean

Cuban Aid Linked to Intelligence Activities

PM0408132090 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 6

[Letter from Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Akhromeyev under the rubric "From the International Desks' Mail": "There Are No Soviet Bases in Cuba"]

[Text] Esteemed Yelena Arefyeva!

I read your article "Charity or Still Ideology?" in IZVESTIYA No. 206.

As I understand it, you specialize in general questions of foreign economic relations. I read your article with due respect. I agree with much of what you said in the section concerning the principles of our country's foreign economic activity.

But I do not agree with what you wrote about Cuban health care. It was set up by the Cuban people with their own funds.... Now to the main point: Soviet-Cuban military cooperation. You write: "There have been wide-ranging discussions in the United States about the future for our aid to Cuba, but they judge us not from the proportions of the sugar and oil prices, but from the information about our military bases and the colossal station to monitor the United States located on the Isle of Freedom." And you go on to criticize the Soviet Union and Cuba for their essentially hostile actions with regard to the United States: "Americans are asking, quite rightly in my (that is, your) view: Where is the new political thinking, where is the real reinforcement of the

new defense doctrine, and is it not for the sake of maintaining confrontation that close military ties are being kept up with Cuba?"

First, there are no Soviet naval or air bases on Cuba, nor are there any military bases for ground forces. There is a single ground forces training center there comprising a few hundred people who help to retrain junior commanders and officers in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces. Second, you complain that the USSR has a tracking station in Cuba—that is, it gathers intelligence on the United States. Third, you write that Americans claim that the Soviet Union maintains close military ties with Cuba "to maintain confrontation with the United States." And Americans are accusing the Soviet Union of this, "quite rightly" in your view. And you propose doing away with the "military-strategic tasks which we inherited from the period of confrontation and which run counter to all our perestroyka goals today...." Let's analyze these claims of yours.

Does the Soviet Union strive to maintain confrontation with the United States? No. The USSR is doing everything in its power to normalize relations. To be fair, a great deal has also been done by the United States over the past two or three years to improve Soviet-U.S. relations. But U.S. policy toward the USSR is still contradictory. It still includes, alongside the line of cooperation, strong-arm pressure toward our country. Even today U.S. policy often infringes our state interests. The U.S. Administration was behind the retention of NATO's military organization within the North Atlantic alliance. It is well known that this military organization by no means makes it easier to safeguard the USSR's security. For many years the Americans have been refusing to hold talks with us on naval force reductions, since they have and intend to keep an advantage over us in that area. Some 40 years ago the United States encircled the Soviet Union with military bases and still retains them even today.

Now to turn to the most delicate point—intelligence-gathering. Clearly, there is a grain of truth in what you write with regard to our intelligence interests. But look at what the United States does. Powerful U.S. intelligence-gathering centers (radio, electronics, radar, and many other centers) are sited on the north coast of Turkey. They gather intelligence on the south and center of our country. Northern Norway is literally crammed with U.S. intelligence facilities and units gathering intelligence on our Northern Fleet, Leningrad Military District, and the nuclear test range on Novaya Zemlya. Similar U.S. forces and facilities are sited on Japanese territory. Every day three to five U.S. spy planes gather intelligence along Soviet borders, each spending eight to 10 hours on our borders. I could also talk about U.S. military aid to Turkey, Greece, and other neighboring countries of ours. But this would require a separate article. That is the real situation. Yes, all this has been inherited from the past. Gradually and through patient negotiations this legacy of the past is being removed and greater confidence established. I would like results to be achieved more quickly. But this is the reality of today.

[Signed] S. Akhromeyev,

Marshal of the Soviet Union

Political & Social

Ryzhkov Discusses Harvest, Social Programs

LD0308213990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1739 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Address by USSR Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov; place and date not given; from the "In the USSR Government" program—recorded]

[Text] Good evening, esteemed comrades. It has become a regular thing for us to meet like this on Fridays, when I try to throw light on what the government has been working on through the week, and talk about the issues we are dealing with and the problems bothering us. Today I wish to dwell on three questions.

The first and main question is the gathering-in of the harvest. This is probably the main question for the whole country, and there is no more serious question than this today. I spent two days this week in Saratov Oblast, and also visited Uralsk Oblast in Kazakhstan, where I saw firsthand how harvesting is progressing. I therefore have what can be called a fresh impression, and I should like to say to all our people that this year's harvest is extraordinary, and there are hopes that food supplies to the population can really be improved. The main task now is how to store this very rich, generous harvest in good time. I think it will be unforgivable of us if we fail to make use of what has been given to us by the human labor of peasants and by nature. On the second [of August] we held a special meeting of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium to examine all questions connected with bringing in the harvest. Those invited included managers of departments, the mass media, and public organizations, and I believe this was a very principled discussion which made it possible to bring to light many inadequacies which unfortunately exist today.

I would divide all these problems into two parts. The first concerns harvesting of grain crops. In this area today everything is provided by our peasants. They actually work from early morning until late at night, and it is difficult to reproach them with anything. I believe they are giving their all to bring in the harvest. But of course, there is a great need for help. There is a shortage of vehicles. This is being said literally in all areas, but there are places like Kazakhstan and oblasts in Russia where large numbers of vehicles are needed, and where we have not yet started harvesting. It was for this reason that a decision was made at the Council of Ministers Presidium that, despite all the difficulties at present affecting industry, transportation, and construction, we need to immediately mobilize between 10 and 15 percent of the available vehicles, and dispatch these, with drivers, in the next few days to those areas where there is harvesting to be done on a large scale, where there will be very large amounts of grain crops to be transported. If we fail to do this we could have much to lose, as they say. There are also major problems concerning rail transport, but we believe they will cope with their tasks. There is a need now for a very rapid regrouping of forces so as to move the grain crops accumulating on our threshing floors out quickly.

Much has been said about material and technical supply. Unfortunately, numerous telegrams are coming in, from Ukraine and from other regions, saying that there is not enough fuel, though we have issued more fuel than last year. But this question does exist, and we have to take all necessary measures in order to react quickly to whatever problems arise in one region or another; questions of spare parts or batteries—in other words, vital problems that are always a source of worry for us, and for which we have to find solutions. Today we have made just such decisions. This includes once again using our Armed Forces—some of its vehicles—and sending them to those farming areas.

The second part of the problem is the question of fruit and vegetables. In my view, the situation here is even worse than with grain crops. This year, procurement of vegetables and fruit has fallen by 350,000 tonnes and 70,000 tonnes respectively, compared with last year. This means that produce worth roughly R1 billion will not reach shop counters, even though we have reaped a very good harvest of fruit and vegetables. Now is precisely the time to take advantage of this, to gather in everything and distribute it to all regions of our country. But a paradoxical situation has arisen. There is a shortage of vegetables and fruit in the towns at the moment, while in the countryside there is a surplus, so to speak. In some regions they are even beginning to plough them back in, to plough over these fields.

Yesterday we were in Saratov Oblast. People are bitterly saying: How can this be? We have grown such a good harvest. It must reach the townspeople. Yet at the same time the towns are failing to help the countryside. I think that we have done the right thing in the presidium by adopting a decision that enterprises and organizations—the town, in other words—should help the countryside. Eventually we will sort out the problem of what economic relationships we should set up. The economic relationship between the town and the countryside has indeed not been adjusted to take account of financial autonomy. But clearly this is not the time to do this. This is not the time to sort out the question of who owes what to whom. Let's get the harvest in and we will find a solution to these economic problems. This is the most important thing. Therefore, I make the following appeal to all people, to all townspeople: Let's help the rural areas. On their own they can't cope with all the vegetables and fruit. On their own they can't cope. Either we really do give them very solid assistance or up to 30 percent of this will go back into the soil.

The country's government appeals to students and young people in education: emulate the days of yore; work as you used to. Today, the countryside awaits you. The countryside will not manage without you today. Therefore, we earnestly request you to respond with understanding to the government' appeal.

We recently adopted a decision on involving military transport planes in the transportation of agricultural produce, above all vegetables and fruit. We believe that the national economy can be greatly assisted in this way. These planes have already begun work. But unfortunately the pace of work is not fast enough to create the conveyor we wanted in order to bring fruit and vegetables to the consumer, especially in the northern regions of the country, and we are not satisfied with it at the moment. Therefore, the presidium emphasized that we must exploit the great potential of this kind of transport in a more organized fashion.

In other words, the really crucial moment has now arrived. We now have to answer the questions: Can we do this or not? We have always complained about the weather, complained that the weather does not allow us to gather a good harvest. But now the conditions are right for a good harvest. It must be gathered in. I believe that we have the manpower and the possibilities for this. The government will pursue a very firm and consistent line on this, so that we can cope, so to speak, with this task, which is most important for the people.

The second matter we considered during the past week is connected with the transition or rather the elaboration of a program for the transition to market relations. I have already said in our previous meetings that in the course of a week we consider many matters that are in one way or the other connected with the transition to the market.

Transition to the market is of course a complex problem, and it indeed requires the solution of the most diverse palette of such matters. Primarily, of course, we are very concerned about matters relating to the social protection of the population, and are paying particular attention to them.

This week we discussed two matters. The first was protection of the public's deposits. We have been receiving many letters saying that when we go over to market relations, if the government program is adopted and there is a specified, or rather, organized increase of prices, there is a corresponding need to compensate to some extent the loss that is inflicted on our deposits, that is to say, the public's savings. We have therefore given instructions to the USSR State Bank and the Ministry of Finance, and they are elaborating a kind of model for a system that would protect the public's deposits. We have made an analysis, and are aware that the major part of the savings bank deposits are labor-earned deposits by the public, who are saving either in order to acquire, say, consumer durables or to build a house or dwelling or else for some other such purchases that involve fairly large outlays. The second part is simply people depositing money so that, when they retire on pension, they will be able to some extent to preserve the standard of living that they had prior to retiring on pension. That is to say, this is natural. Therefore the task is for us to create a system that would protect the deposits.

I cannot now at the present time speak in detail about the system, because those proposals that were submitted to us will require further study. However, I may firmly say that those deposits that exist in the savings banks, or by way of social insurance or bonds, must be and definitely will, of course, be protected. In the near future we will finalize the elaboration of such a system, and comrades will inform the working people about the system that we will have in order to provide these people with social protection.

The third problem considered by the government was the social protection of underprivileged citizens. In general, when we consider all matters relating to social protection, we pay attention primarily to two categories of people—namely, those people who are not yet working, and the category of the population that is no longer working. If one is to speak on the broad scale, the main emphasis and the main attention is given precisely to these categories of people.

In our view a very good law has been adopted with respect to pensioners. It will come into force on 1 January 1991, and in the course of two to three years it will be thoroughly introduced throughout all the territory of our country for all categories of working people. I do not think I need to speak about this law. It has been sufficiently discussed and has been published.

Regarding assistance to mothers and the protection of mothers and children, you are aware that in the month of April the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision that also grants certain benefits.

Unfortunately, we have, I would say, a sort of interval between the ages of 18 months and six years, when the child is without social protection. It turns out that the decision on this category of children was taken in the forties; to be precise, in 1944. Four rubles were paid out for each fourth child aged one to five years; for subsequent children this ranged from six to 15 rubles. Well, there is no doubt that in the forties, when wages were very modest, very low, this amounted to approximately 10 percent, and really was of assistance. The years have passed, however; wages have risen and a mass of letters is now being received—and it is a question raised very strongly in the press—as to how it can be that we are living in such times and an extra payment of a mere four rubles is paid for a fourth child, as help from the state. We have considered this matter carefully. There are other problems with it as well. Regarding the one-time benefit on the birth of a child, say. The situation is such that R50 is paid for a first child at the moment, R100 for a second and third child, then, from the fourth child it ranges from R65 to R250. In other words, it is completely illogical. That is what has come about historically. Separate decisions were made and the payments that are made are not even logical. The question as to how we are to proceed in this instance therefore arises. We reached a conclusion and a document has been

signed which is in line, so to speak, with our program of switching to market relations. The decision consists of the following:

We believe that there should be a one-time payment for a child, irrespective of whether it is the first or the third child, to the tune of three times the minimum wage. The official minimum wage in our country today amounts to R70. In accordance with this, the one-time payment on the birth of a child will be R210. That is the procedure being established.

Then, from 1 December of this year, we believe, and this document has been signed, that we must help parents to the tune of 50 percent of the minimum wage for children aged 18 months to six years, that is R35. This affects those parents and families where the average joint income per family member does not exceed twice the minimum wage, that is R140. If that income is less than R140 per member of the family, R35 will be paid per child. This decision covers more than 70 percent of urban families and more than 90 percent of rural families. As a rule, these are young families who do not yet have sufficiently high incomes, and it is precisely at this time that we must provide them with assistance.

This same decision also provides for an increase in the monthly state benefit to single mothers who are also to receive a subsidy to the tune of 50 percent of the minimum wage, i.e. R35, for each child up to the age of 16 or, if the child is studying and not in receipt of a grant, to the age of 18.

I have dwelt on these two issues of social protection, in the one instance of protecting the population's savings, and in the other of providing assistance to children and families with children. We believe that this will provide substantial support and of course, as we improve the situation in the economy, we will tackle these problems still further.

That is all I want to say today. Thank you for your attention. I wish you well.

Benefits to Families Announced

LD0408094590 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] The Soviet Government has adopted a decree on additional steps aimed at ensuring social security for families with children in connection with the transition to a market economy.

It has decided to give the parents allowance amounting to three minimal wages at the birth of a child. Allowances for children aged between one-and-a-half years and six are also increasing substantially. The monthly benefits to unmarried mothers will rise. All these payments will begin as of 1 December this year. They will be covered by the state republican treasuries.

Ryzhkov Supports Unemployment Fund

LD0608122490 Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister, Nikolay Ryzhkov, has supported the idea of setting up a public fund against unemployment. Mr. Ryzhkov was speaking in a media interview.

According to preliminary estimates, the country will need 3 to 4 billion rubles to carry out effective measures against unemployment.

The money will be primarily used to retrain workers whose factories will prove unable to stand the competition and will have to be closed down.

At the same time the prime minister ruled out the possibility of unemployment in the Soviet Union in the next few years since there are many job vacancies in the country.

'Constructive' USSR-Russian Treaty Meeting

LD0308162790 Moscow TASS in English 1552 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Isachenkov]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—The working groups of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Russian Federation today began consultations on a new Union treaty, under an agreement reached by the Presidential Council and the Federation Council. Similar meetings are expected with representatives of other constituent republics.

Georgy Tarazevich, chairman of the parliament commission on nationalities policy who heads the working group of the USSR Supreme Soviet, told TASS that the meeting passed in a constructive way as the sides had no major differences on most issues. It was decided to set up expert groups on some specific problems.

His Russian Federation counterpart, Ruslan Khasbulatov, stressed that the consultations on a new Union treaty should involve not only republics but also representatives of the Soviet Parliament which "today possesses real power in the country."

As for the talks on the future Union, Khasbulatov believes that judicially, it "would be more right, if they were held between republics." The republics themselves should decide what kind of centre they need, he commented.

Asked by TASS about the plans of the centre and Russia to coordinate economic reform, Khasbulatov stressed that [word indistinct] the agreement envisages that the Union and Russian Governments initially elaborate a general mechanism for implementing the reform, which is then finalised in republican legislation. A similar mechanism can be used by other Union republics, which means that no :"separatist" talks are held by Russia and the centre, Khasbulatov added.

Officials Comment on Talks

LD0308173190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] The concept of new alliance relations, full equality within the framework of a union of sovereign states, and the correlation of Union and republican legislation: These were the topics discussed at consultations held at the Kremlin today between working groups of the supreme soviets of the USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR]. Taking part on behalf of the all-Union parliament were Tarazevich, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities commission on ethnic policy and interethnic relations; Gritsenko, Kucherenko, Sharipov, chairman of commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet; and Doguzhiyev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation was represented by Khizbulatov, first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet; Isakov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet; and Burbulis, USSR people's deputy and plenipotentiary representative of the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. Present at the session as an observer was Oleynik, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Tarazevich, head of the working group of the Union parliament, announced at the end of the session that on most issues there were no disagreements of principle between the sides.

It was decided that certain problems will be studied further by groups of experts. Tarazevich assessed the conversation very favorably. Khizbulatov also expressed satisfaction with the meeting. He stressed that consultations on issues concerning the concluding of a new Union treaty must be conducted not only between the republics, but also with representatives of the USSR parliament, because today it possesses real power in the country. As for the actual talks on the creation of a future union, in his opinion it will be preferable from a legal point of view for them to be held exclusively between the republics.

The consultations, which are being held under the agreement reached at the session of the Presidential Council and Council of the Federation of the USSR, will be continued with representatives of the other Union republics.

Treaty Working Group Outlined

LD0408161890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] USSR President Gorbachev has signed an instruction [rasporyazheniye] concerning preparation of the concept of a Union program for the transition to the market economy as the basis of a Union treaty. It says:

In keeping with a joint accord between the USSR president and Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], and Silyev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Minister, the following measures are to be adopted:

First: Form a working group for preparation of the concept of a Union program for the transition to the market economy as the basis of a Union treaty, comprised of Shatalin, Petrakov, Abalkin, Yavlinksiy, Vavilov, Grigoryev, (Zadornyy), Martynov, (Mashitsa), Mikhaylov, Fedorov, Shmelev, and (Yasin).

The group should include plenipotentiary representatives of the governments of Union republics. It should be permissible when necessary to involve academics and specialists, irrespective of the institutions or departments where they work, in working on the concept.

Second: Instruct the working group to prepare a program concept not later than 1 September this year.

Third: Make it incumbent upon all ministries, departments, organizations, and institutions to put at the disposal of the working group all necessary economic and other special information without restriction.

Fourth: Instruct the administrations of affairs of the USSR presidential apparatus and of the RSFSR Council of Ministers to provide technical services for the working group.

In conclusion, the document says that direct control over the working group will be exercised by the USSR president and the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

Centrist Bloc Holds Coordinating Meeting

LD0408143190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] A meeting of the centrist bloc of political parties and movements has taken place at the Soviet Peace Committee.

The meeting was attended by the leaders of Sakharov's Union of Democratic Forces, the Russian Democratic Forum, the radical faction of the Moscow Popular Front, and the Liberal Democratic Party.

Attending as observers were: chairmen of the Peace Party, the Democratic Party, the Party of Urban and Rural Proprietors [partiya gorodskikh i selkikh khozyayev] and the Blue Movement. Questions connected with the forthcoming holding of an all-Union forum of the country's democratic forces were discussed.

An organizing committee of the forum was elected. Voronin, leader of the Sakhorov Union of Democratic Forces, has become chairman.

'Free Democratic Party' Founded in Leningrad

LD0508124590 Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 5 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Viktor Ganshin]

[Text] Leningrad August 5 TASS—Activists of the Democratic Movement of Russia's Northwest have founded a new party, naming it the Free Democratic Party of Russia [FDPR].

There is only one word "free" that differs the name from the already existing party, but the word reflects serious contradictions with the recent allies.

A Leningrad delegation disagreed with their Moscow colleagues during the founding congress of the Democratic Party of Russia in May. "The differences were principal," said FDPR Co-Chairman Marina Salye, who is a Russian Federation and Leningrad people's deputy.

"In Moscow, we rejected the proposal to convene an all-Russian constituent assembly. They proposed to allow collective party membership, when whole enterprises and institutions can join the party. We also rejected it."

She believes the position of the Democratic Party comes to anti-communism as the main item. Free Democrats also oppose the communists ideology, but there are former Communist Party members in the party, including Salye herself. They believe any party can exist, if it functions within the framework of the Constitution.

"Does it mean that you are neutral to the Communist Party?" TASS asked another FDPR Co-Chairman Konstantin Tumanov, a Leningrad engineer.

"Of course, not," Tumanov said. "We openly declared that we are in opposition to the Communist Party and consider the consolidation of all democratic forces of Russia in the fight for removing the Communist Party from power our primary task.

"Our regional department unites some 500 people in Leningrad, Novgorod and Pskov. We are planning to participate in the work of soviets of all levels through deputies, who are members of the party, create civil activity committees and, in the economic sphere, to support free enterprising and forward the introduction of market relations," he said.

Public movements that were united during the election campaign to the supreme, republican and local soviets have split. Democrats disagree with Free Democrats. Democratic Platform supporters left the Leningrad Comminist Party organisation. Time will show if they wil be able to re-unite and what can become the basis for consolidation.

Two 'Information-People's' Parties Formed

90UN2427A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Article by V. Dolganov, IZVESTIYA parliament correspondent: "There Are Such Parties, But Do They Benefit Democracy?"]

[Text] There are two more parties on the political map of the homeland: the Information-People's Party [informatsionno-narodnaya partiya] of Russia and the Information-People's Party of the USSR.

What kind of parties are these with their strange names? Who can belong to them and under what conditions? "There has been no other party with a name like this in the entire history of the world community," the authors of the charter report, not without a certain measure of coquetry, "because the goal of the USSR INP [Information-People's Party] is to protect the interests of the people, and the means of achieving this goal is to provide them with complete information." The founders were the Union of State and Cooperative Information-Reference and Advertising Services of the USSR (GIKIS SSSR), the Moscow Information Center, the GIKIS RSFSR, the editorial staff of the newspaper INFORMATIZATSIYA OBSHCHESTVA SSSR, the Moscow City Reference and Information Office, and the Soyuzinformset cooperative.

The program (it is the same for both parties) is one of complete chaos and confusion and one frequently encounters the phrases "the good of the people" and "the interests of the people." There are points that are quite comical. For example: "To achieve the inclusion in the regulations of the USSR Armed Forces a point according to which all military servicemen in public places (on the streets, in public transportation, at performances, and so forth) would protect the population from hooligans and all negative behavior and not turn away from them." The goal of the party is "to create an informed, rule-of-law, self-governing, equal-opportunity society."

The INP is led by a council consisting of 10 people, "each of whom is a cochairman of the party." There are no known political figures among the recently elected leaders.

In general this is the main thing about the new organizations which have labeled themselves "voluntary professional-political." Even at their constituent congress they managed to go through a fairly full agenda, including holding a health session and viewing a new hit American movie. The infrequent speeches of people who suggested calling the organization something else that was not so flashy were drowned out in the general sea of new-party rapture. And the fifth point of the agenda was, it seems to me, more precise and realistic: "On the creation of a trade union of computer and commercial advertising enterprises, organizations, and institutions of Russia." Perhaps this by itself would be enough for the near future.

Yaroslav Hasek, a great master of practical jokes and "put-ons," once when sitting in a tavern, generously treated about 20 habitues to fresh pilsner, declared them a party of moderate progress within the framework of order, and swore on his beer mug to become their president. This mischievous trick even landed the writer a small percentage of votes. Why do I recall this joke? It

is a miracle that we have lived to see the day when nobody is surprised by the very fact of creating a new party (parties).

Just so long as these infant parties do not turn our democratic movement into a kind of patchwork quilt—smaller and thinner, although incredibly variegated in color. The process of the generation of new social organizations is natural and normal. But we must not forget about common sense. Euphoria in politics is risky business. And it is not the number of parties but their constructive approach to our extremely indistinct reality that measures the present level of democratization of society.

Politburo Member Shenin Interviewed

90UN2507A Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian No 30, 28 Jul 90 p 3

[Report on interview with Oleg Shenin, Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, by M. Briman in Krasnoyarsk; place and date not given: "Not a 'Firm Hand' but a Firm Political Policy Will Help"]

[Text] **He was given four days to put his affairs in Krasnoyarsk Kray in order. They included a meeting of the bureau of the party kraykom [kray committee] whose plenum relieved him of his duties as first secretary, and numerous meetings with communists who sent O.S. Shenin to the 28th congress as a delegate, voters who awarded him the mandate of a USSR people's deputy, the party aktiv of Krasnoyarsk, the apparatus of the party kraykom... At one of these meetings my journalist friend noted: "Until quite recently a member of the Politburo and especially 'one's own' would definitely have met with applause, but now..."**

There was applause, but only at the end, when there were words of congratulation and gratitude for the fact that the Central Committee plenum had listened to the opinion of the kray party conference which recommended Oleg Semenovich for the party leadership organs. But at the beginning of the conversation I recalled that remark of my comrade.

[Shenin] You know, I felt something similar in my family. My wife and children—I have three of them—congratulated me, of course, but... In general no words about responsibility were uttered aloud although they were, one might say, in the air. At least my youngest, Angelina, who is a serious person anyway, became even grimmer. As far as the mood of Krasnoyarsk residents is concerned, one can understand it. As they say, do not change horses in the middle of the stream, but here we have to. To whom should I turn over the wheel? We have decided not to be in any hurry and to elect the first secretary a month after the kray party conference, so that its delegates would have a chance to think and weigh things. Fortunately, we have a very friendly, efficient bureau and I am convinced that the comrades will make their way out of this situation honorably.

[Briman] In your speeches when you were already secretary of the Central Committee in charge of questions of party organizational and personnel work you constantly emphasized that the most important thing, the decisive thing for the party now should take place in the local organizations. And it would be terrible if the sovereignty of the party masses were to amount to merely recommendations and demands made to the higher party organs and monitoring of these, even though all this is necessary for a radical democratization of the party.

[Shenin] I see the main danger in the fact that the party can work on itself and become a kind of office which is capable of working even if all the rest of the world were to die. If only there were enough paper for the "incoming" and "outgoing" from one division to another. I must admit that certain speeches at the congress made me think about such an office. Some of the delegates were too heated, for example, when discussing the question of membership dues.... And yet today all thoughts should be about something else—about new paths to the people, about how to prove to them that the party is needed. And, in my opinion, these paths exist. Before the congress I visited a plant for industrial rubber items: The gas content in the air was high, it was hot, the social infrastructure was impoverished.... It is now being reconstructed and new equipment is being brought in. But the work will take many years. Why should communists not look for possibilities of doing something now, immediately, in order to improve working conditions? They should suggest their own plan to the workers, the trade union, and the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League]. They should persuade them of the feasibility of what they have come up with and attract people and take charge of the work. People will also see the congress documents differently if they see with their own eyes, at their own plant, that the party has no other aim than their well-being.

[Briman] You used the words "persuade," "attract," and "take charge," but they have always been used in regard to "local organizations." In fact there was the rigid command system which long ago atrophied the ability to persuade and inspire. Where will all these millions of communists get this now? Especially if one takes into account the moral pressure to which they are being subjected?

[Shenin] I agree: A great deal has been lost. But, you know, the law that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction exists not only in physics but also in social life. Indiscriminate attacks on all communists, the majority of whom are honest, hard-working people, sometimes are so unfair that they cannot but evoke a desire to prove the opposite. And then all conscious forces in the party not only begin to understand that the question is whether for it to be or not to be; they also understand that "not to be" will end in tragedy for the people, although some people will assert the opposite, declaring that the idea of socialism was forced upon the country. But would the people really have gone as far as a revolution if the roots of this idea did not lie in their

age-old dream of justice? And mankind can never reject this dream, even in spite of the fact that the attempt by the party of the Russian communists to build communism in one fell swoop brought such bitter a experience.

[Briman] You speak about an awareness of the danger that threatens the party. But, after all, for an individual person there is a simple way of avoiding it—to calmly lay down his party card. Which people are doing today...

[Shenin] I cannot agree with you about the "calm" part. I think that with the exception of those who entered the party out of selfish motives, the majority do not feel very good about it when they leave. A person who at one time conscientiously entered the CPSU cannot but ask himself the question: Has he not been spiritually weak? Did he not give in to that same moral pressure? And then today is not the same as three or four years ago when there would have been an element of risk in this. Today it takes more courage to stay. And if only because of this you cannot expect any special approval from those who taunt you: "Hey you, communist!" I am afraid that the moral sensitivity of the people will very quickly be felt even more definitely regarding this. For you know what people who leave a sinking ship are compared to...

[Briman] But these people who flee see their justification in the fact that certain well-known and respected political figures...

[Shenin] But this is a very difficult question. Sometimes it seems to me that some of these figures are not fully aware of their vital ties with the party they abandoned in its time of difficulty. It is not only that it was the party and the perestroyka it began that gave them their initial start. It is also a matter of the ideals they profess and around which they rally their followers. Let us take just the criticism of privileges. It was fair and we must be grateful that this criticism helped to overcome this part of the legacy of Stalin. But let us think about something else. About the fact that the very idea of social justice is completely ours, a communist idea. This idea did not originate under the influence of the social democrats, whose views on justice are one thing but whose practice is altogether different. It developed in these people of the Soviet school, although we also reprove it in our books and films. And, incidentally, criticism of privileges finds such support among the masses because these masses have gone to the same schools and read the same books. It is no wonder that even many religious figures recognize that it is not so bad, our communist ideal; that the whole problem lies in the unreasonable people who try to realize it. Thus if these figures were not thinking about the restoration of capitalism—they are holding their tongues about this—they would obviously have to talk about tactical disagreements. But because of these disagreements is it time to burn "everything we worship and worship what we burned"? Incidentally, world political experience shows that such things leave their mark on politicians.

Here is another example you have probably heard concerning Gorbachev: "But why does he have to be general secretary as well? If he worked quietly as president he would have no trouble with the party..." And everything would appear to be going as it should, and on a human level we could understand Mikhail Sergeyevich. The affairs of the head of state are, as it were, "in control" and here is the unprecedentedly harsh and unforgiving criticism at the congress. He could take advantage of this, take offense, and leave his party post, but what he did was declare that he did not consider this possible at this critical moment for the party. And what happened? Each of the numerous questionnaires at the congress gave the highest rating, far above all the rest, to Gorbachev! And this when very many delegates were against combining positions. I think that at this decisive moment of the elections of the general secretary an immense role was played by a feeling of respect for the decency of this person. I am convinced that many people inside and outside the party have this feeling.

[Briman] If you do not object, let us return the local organizations to which you assign a decisive role. Obviously, someone should arouse them, awaken them, and inspire them... Who are these people?

[Shenin] Above all, members of the elective organs: raykoms, gorkoms... The party apparatus should help them.

[Briman] Here we have come to what will be an important part of the work of the Central Committee secretary responsible for personnel.... In my opinion, today we cannot close our eyes to the fact that this apparatus has been seriously demoralized by that fire for effect which has been trained on it recently.

[Shenin] Let us note that this fire was not aimed but trained on large areas, and completely innocent people suffered as a result.

[Briman] But now we have to think about the consequences: Does the present apparatus have enough spiritual energy left to take up the work of rejuvenating the party?

[Shenin] You know, this formula exists: "Happiness is when you are glad to go home in the evening and in a hurry to get to work in the morning...." Our present apparatchiks have never experienced much joy in the morning. First we heard: "How long can we be expected to pay for what individual scoundrels have done? Who will finally protect us?" But now the people understand that no words in their own defense will help. Only deeds can prove that they have joined the apparatus in order to serve the people. Today after long and, it must be admitted, tortuously prolonged waiting, the majority are eager to get down to work, and I am convinced that these people will work selflessly. And those who are burned out will have the decency to say: I cannot do it, I do not have the strength! Moreover, during the next three or four months there will be elections of party committees of all

levels. They will be rejuvenated and, naturally, the apparatus that serves them will be rejuvenated as well.

[Briman] Listening to you I recalled how the general secretary complained aloud that the Central Committee did not include Comrade Gusev who represents that part of the Democratic Platform which, even though it is not fully satisfied with the congress documents, could not conceive of itself outside the party and will defend its positions within its framework. In my opinion, this pertains directly to the elections about which you were speaking.

[Shenin] Obviously, we all still have to learn to value those who disagree with us, to work together with them. They are the yeast that gives rise to new ideas. And the majority have to learn to think and to sense the situation in society and correspondingly generate ideas so that today's minority will be forced to catch up with the majority. I wish to note that this is my own "must"—an assignment for myself. Being elected a member of the Politburo does not mean one is fully released from his old approaches or obsolete stereotypes. If the general secretary admits that he has to change some things in himself, to break himself of some habits, I do not think there is anything wrong with people working alongside him doing the same thing....

[Briman] Well, what about Oleg Semenovich Shenin himself, what does he value most in people simply on a human level?

[Shenin] Openness. Camaraderie. Empathy with others. If you do not have this quality, how can you feel another's pain?

[Briman] Until quite recently a description of a candidate for a high post had to contain the word "strong-willed"....

[Shenin] A remnant of this is found in certain people's nostalgia for the "iron fist." Willpower never hurt anyone. But, in my opinion, we should be nostalgic for a firm political course. And this will be really possible if the leader is surrounded by true comrades, and the camaraderie itself arises on the basis of trust and respect for one another.

[Briman] Speaking about work with personnel, you have partially answered a question that interests many people. They would like to know what Comrade Shenin earned in Khakasiya and then in his native Krasnoyarsk, and what got him elected a member of the Politburo? What personal baggage and what supply of ideas does he bring to Moscow? I think the interest is predictable, especially if one takes into account the fact that the congress as much as x-rayed the entire high echelon of party leadership.

[Shenin] Since you used the word "baggage," with your permission I shall mention "customs." There it is by no means the owners who x-ray the baggage.

[Briman] I shall put the question a different way. As a journalist I could not help but pay attention to certain quite ordinary actions of the kraykom during the past year. You personally, for example, held a whole series of meetings separately with representatives of various categories of the population: workers, peasants, engineering and technical personnel, women, and even parents. And during these jam-packed four days you even found time to meet with engineering and technical personnel from Krasnoyarsk. Moreover, the status of those invited did not exceed shop chief and there were several nonparty members. What is the point of these meetings?

[Shenin] I am convinced that long ago the party should have stopped working with all the people all at once. There is no such thing as workers "in general." There are various social groups and each has its own interests, its own demands, and its own claims on society. If we want the working class to stay with the party—and we do want this—if we want the party to include the peasantry and the intelligentsia, in the first place we must understand their specific interests; in the second place, we must make them feel that their interests are our interests; and in the third place, we must put all of these segments to work in order to meet their social demands. I think this is the key in which the new Politburo will work. It is no accident that for the first time we have a Central Committee secretary responsible for work with women. This is Comrade G.V. Semenova. I am convinced that if we work persistently in this direction the common sense of the people will very quickly lead them to the conclusion that they need the CPSU. There is no more organized force which could express their hopes better or more profoundly and also defend them.

As for my last meeting with the engineers of Krasnoyarsk, allow me to share one observation. Just in the half year since our last meeting these people have changed strikingly. Candor, a sense of their own worth, a readiness to defend their views, profound new ideas. I have long had the feeling that this category of workers have not yet said their last word and that they are about to say it. And it is very important to the party what this word will be. For the engineer—a foreman or a chief of a section or shop—is the person closest to the worker. A great deal depends on how he answers a question asked of him in the smoking room or what he thinks of a television program shown the night before.

[Briman] Might one think that all this is from the series of those "home preparations" with which we are prepared to enter the country's political arena?

[Shenin] If it is convenient for you to use KVN [Club of the Cheerful and Resourceful] terminology, then go ahead, but the best scientific forces must be enlisted for this work. We must ultimately have a clear picture of the deep processes taking place in various social groups. And, of course, we must constantly consult with representatives of all these groups and include them in the political process. For it has already been noted that some

of the creative intelligentsia and perhaps the most respected part have begun to move away from this process....

[Briman] You inadvertently led me to the traditional question about your personal inclinations and diversions. But I, like all people of Krasnoyarsk, am familiar with art and I know that you have "one flaming passion"—music. That you do not miss a single concert or opera premier that has any merit at all. Frankly, this quality is fairly rare for a party worker...

[Shenin] This comes from my mother. She completed only eight grades of school but when we went to live in the city, where from time to time there were musicians and opera, she always took me to the concerts and performances. At that time I was eight years old, and today music is perhaps my only way to relax and bring order to my thoughts and feelings. You know, when there is a premier in our opera theater, we have our own little celebration at home; all my family loves music. At one time our party organization did quite a bit of work to increase the potential of art in the kray. And I must admit that I am very proud of the fact that in response Krasnoyarsk gave the world, for example, Dmitriy Khvorostovskiy....

[Briman] At the USSR Congress of People's Deputies and the Constituent Congress of the Communist Party of the RSFSR you insistently promoted the idea that in no case should we skimp on culture, on art. It would seem that there is something personal in this insistence....

[Shenin] I am deeply convinced that very many of our problems, our tragedies today are the result of our lack of culture. Usually people speak about a low level of political culture, but this is only one facet of overall culture. And the ruling party must be aware that unless there is concern about culture it will be impossible to move forward either in politics or in economics. And if we want to build a rule-of-law state and not a society ruled by the one who shouts the loudest, then this party, through its representatives in the power organs, must act accordingly. And it must also learn to explain to the taxpayers that it is not to beautify the state facade that we must invest money in culture, that this is the most economically advantageous sphere of investments. And I am convinced that the people will understand such a party because, I repeat, I believe in their common sense and moral sensitivity.

[Briman] I think that readers of SOVETSKAYA KULTURA fully share your views. Permit me to thank you on their behalf for finding time in these busy four days to grant an interview to their newspaper and to congratulate you and wish you success in your new post.

[Shenin] Thank you.

Shenin on Job's 'Crushing Responsibility'

PM0308144990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Second Edition pp 1, 2

[Interview with O.S. Shenin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, by N. Krivomazov; place and date not given: "Organizational Work Rather than Organizational Conclusions"—first paragraph is an editorial introduction]

[Text] Oleg Semenovich Shenin received organizational work in the distribution of portfolios in the new Politburo. He is 53 years old. He was born in the Volga region, but justifiably considers himself a Siberian. His career has spanned construction worker foreman to leader of a construction trust. He was nominated for party work 15 years ago: He was first secretary of the Achinsk Gorkom [City Party Committee], first secretary of Khakass Obkom [Oblast Party Committee], and then, from 1987, first secretary of Krasnoyarsk Kraykom [Kray Party Committee]. But any career summary always appears more linear than the career itself, so I began my conversation with Shenin not with a question, but with a distant recollection which has a direct bearing upon both organizational work in the party and its new leadership.

[Krimomazov] An old reporter's notebook of mine contains the brief note: "Shenin is a restless spirit." What lies behind this short phrase? The "Krasnoyarskalyuminstroy" Komsomol [All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League] youth collective had decided to select young specialists to be clerks of works and section chiefs by competition. Twenty-one-year-old Shenin, chief of a construction administration, was the originator of this idea. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA considered it "an innovative and forward-looking experiment." Shenin said in the newspaper: "This trust is special. It means that a clerk of works or section chief who wins the competition is trusted by people. And if they trust you, they will follow you."

The end of the quotation and, shortly afterwards, also...the end of that memorable action. The experiment was indeed "forward looking." It did not catch on at the time. It was most likely indeed ahead of its time. But it did prepare our own time, Oleg Semenovich, did it not?

[Shenin] In Siberia, because of its geographical sweep, people are always more expansive. You do not need to elbow your way forward. It is enough to work with your hands and head. I think that in my new post, too, I must fight to ensure that the party and the people use their head and not their elbows. And you need space for this. But here we are dealing with social, rather than geographical space. That forms an integral part of perestroyka and is my direct task.

[Krivomazov] What difference have you felt in transferring to your new job?

[Shenin] More responsibility. I would even say, crushing responsibility. You are expected to make new moves and

make innovative decisions. The situation in the party is undeniably not an easy one at present. Particularly in the primary organizations. How can they be helped to determine the right line in the new conditions? Of course, we can't go to every individual organization. But we can do things in such a way as to make them aware that the center is thinking about them and shares their concerns, that is a real task, I think.

[Krivomazov] When I was arranging the meeting with you, I heard the familiar phrase time and time again over the telephone: "Comrade Shenin's apparatus speaking." What does apparatus mean here?

[Shenin] I think that here you are talking about people rather than the telephone apparatus.

I had a meeting the other day with the Central Committee Party Organization Work Department. I said to the comrades: "Let us think and seek out ways together." Many proposals were made regarding the Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat. And I think that apparatus workers should be not plenipotentiaries but advisers who are well informed about the state of affairs at the local level. And they should not just make their own "recommendations," but also receive advice and suggestions from below. I favor this kind of synthesis so that we can avoid mistakes together. And the fact that the "apparatchiks" are knowlegeable is shown—if not by anything else—by the fact that many of them are now being offered work by the most diverse organizations.

[Krivomazov] I hear that B.N. Yeltsin has offered a CPSU Organizational Party Work Department staffer a job as his aide.

[Shenin] He's not the only one to do so.

[Krivomazov] And yet how big is the politicians' "reserve bench"?

[Shenin] Unfortunately, we are experiencing a certain dearth of cadres. New approaches in party cadre policy are necessary, extremely necessary.

[Krivomazov] And how do you see policy?

[Shenin] I see it as primarily geared to people, like the party's whole policy. The party's enormous potential, which is embodied in people, must be tapped and the former requirement that every step of the party "ladder" be scaled should be resolutely discarded. Emphasis must be placed on new people and encouragement given to "nonprofessionals," in the former sense of that word, to come into party work, people whom the actual party members will trust. A certain "humanization" of party cadres is needed for now we need people from the professions that study human nature—historians, political scientists, psychologists, sociologists, philosophers, and journalists—rather than commanders.

[Krivomazov] But will they want to fill a vacant party job, break with their profession, and forfeit their skills?

[Shenin] Yes, the practice of training and retraining cadres must be reexamined. And moreover, aspects like social protection and the retention of professional skills. I think that if a historian or sociologist is given a certain amount of time to deliver lectures in the institute where he previously worked and to give tutorials, and a journalist is likewise given time to write articles, this should only be welcomed.

[Krivomazov] Siberians know that you were not an advocate of a drastic reshuffling of the party pack. At the same time you will have frequently seen how a communist is forced to break outdated rules and instructions. How will you act in such cases?

[Shenin] Perestroyka itself is, if you wish, pure violation. Deliberate violation of dated dogmas, rules, and instructions. But there is only one criterion for assessing them—is it to the benefit of people and the country or not?—and if yes, people must not be coerced by instructions, but rather the instructions must be rescinded, and as soon as possible.

But the most important thing has to be, I repeat, the following: More organizational work and fewer of the organizational conclusions of which we have been so fond.

[Krivomazov] You quite often hear the following at obkom and gorkom organizational plenums: The Central Committee Politburo or, in the second instance, the obkom bureau recommends a comrade to the post of first secretary. How do such recommendations accord with the principles of democratization in the party stated at the 28th CPSU Congress?

[Shenin] I see nothing contrary to congress decisions in such candidates being proposed by a superior bodies. Provided that this has taken place after detailed study of the attitude and situation prevailing in the organization. The collective is entitled to put forward alternative candidates. What is wrong with the obkom or the Politburo expressing its opinion? Incidentally, many communists would like to know the superior organ's opinion, and it is undemocratic, I think, not to divulge it. But that should not be seen as something predetermined. Let the truth emerge and the answers to the most difficult questions be found in the confrontation of opinions.

[Krivomazov] Would you please tell us about the distribution of duties among Politburo members and Central Committee secretaries?

[Shenin] Duties are distributed in the Politburo as follows: V.A. Ivashko is deputy general secretary. In addition to general work, he has socioeconomic policy and leadership of the Secretariat. I think that the Secretariat will meet once a week. The Politburo once a month. A.S. Dzasokhov is in charge of ideological work, and G.V. Semenova of the women's movement. Ye.S. Stroyev looks after agrarian policy, while G.I. Yanayev is charged with international policy. I am in charge of party

building, so, as you can see, I am not changing my basic profession of construction worker.

[Krivomazov] What do you now consider the main feature of party organizations' activity?

[Shenin] Getting down to the actual tasks presented by life itself. Our life is extremely tough now. It is fashionable in our country to cite the West and its achievements. But for some reason, while we show the results, it is far rarer for us to show how this is achieved, the kind of effort it involves. I read this noteworthy phrase the other day in a book by the famous American manager Lee Iacocca: "When times are tough, you have no other choice than to take yourself in hand, to carry on living, and to do everything the best you can." In my opinion, we have no other choice now. We wasted so much time waiting for the Russian conference and then the 28th congress. Both the party and society were playing a waiting game. There were discussions, rallies, meetings, but very little work in party committtees and party organizations.

[Krivomazov] But what are the immediate tasks, in your opinion?

[Shenin] I think, I am certain even, that every primary party organization and every kray, oblast, okrug, city, and rayon party organization has its own specific problems which need to be tackled and solved quickly. The most specific tasks: In some places these are related to working conditions, in other places to the development of the social sphere, while in yet other places it is the environment or the food problem. Everything must be done to ensure that it is the "primary organizations" that designate the immediate measures—even if few in number—and take the suggestions to the working class, the peasantry, the intelligentsia, the soviets, the labor collective councils, and the leaders, and turn to the soviets. They must receive support in implementing these immediate programs without fail.

[Krivomazov] And how do you see the role of raykoms and gorkoms at this stage?

[Shenin] Above all it is important to move away from direct economic questions and to tackle them by political methods. When I was still in Krasnoyarsk Kray, I sensed that the raykoms, particularly where the first secretary has also been elected chairman of the soviet, get embroiled in purely executive committee affairs. Consequently there is once again less attention paid to party organizations. This does not mean that raykoms should not help soviets implement thier programs. But the methods must be different.

[Krivomazov] But what about cooperation with other parties and other new public formations? Many consider that you are on the whole a centrist. Which direction will you be more inclined toward?

[Shenin] If one could joke one's way out of such a high-level discussion, I would say that I am inflexible. But the so-called "right wingers" could establish my guilt by citing an article in PRAVDA when, during the years of the formation of the first informal societies, I reflected on the need to search for mutual undserstanding. You will recall that at the time I used an image garnered from a poem by our Krasnoyarsk poet R.Kh. Solntsev, who now serves as a USSR people's deputy. An aquarium fish is let out, set free, but it continues to swim round and round and... Getting out of this circle of yesterday's grievances and concerns means getting into the mainstream of life more quickly. Many people interpreted this comparison as a mere desire to accuse the independent associations of ignorance, even a reluctance to swim in today's "sea of life" more quickly and, more importantly, deeply. But the point is that the "aquarium fish syndrome" was also observed on the other side. It is not for nothing that M. Popov from Syktyvkar wrote to me at the time about alienation and the fact that there were indeed still quite a few people divided by a wall, as it were: "Only they are not behind a glass wall but a very real wall, a stone wall, and it is not so easy to get them out from behind it."

During this antagonism and confrontation of the first years of perestroyka virtually the entire government apparatus ranked among the opponents of perestroyka while, on the other hand, all the informal organizations without exception tried to get themselves heard by knocking at the different doors which were bolted at the time. But since many were simply unskilled either in knocking at or in opening doors, they did not know how and did not wish to, they sometimes forced open doors and began chipping away not at the walls but at the foundations, the underpinnings.

[Krivomazov] Prior to the Russian party conference you expressed doubts regarding the advisability of creating a Russian communist party....

[Shenin] There are positive and negative aspects in discussing dialectically—and we are not entitled to do it any other way—the creation of an RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Communist Party. And the whole question here is ensuring that the actual work done by the Russian communists removes the negative aspects. And I do not understand the why or the wherefore of certain comrades who link the expedience of the organization of the party to some specific person who "directs" the show. I think that "Do as I say!" should disappear from the "perestroyka show." But doing it with us and better than us is something I can grasp. A commander is not someone who runs behind, pistol in hand, intimidating the laggards. He, excuse my "derring-do," should lead from the front.

In general, whichever facet of a problem of our time you take, you get entangled everywhere in "organizational questions" and sometimes you even suffer injury by them. To use an image from Platonov's novel, we have gotten out of the "foundation ditch," but that is not

enough. Now we need to build. It should ultimately be remembered that work is a basic element of organizational work....

International Journalists Center Formed in Moscow

LD0408084590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2330 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] An International Journalists Center has been founded in Moscow. Mezentsev, head of the press center of the International Group of Deputies, has become its president. Realizing that it is possible to achieve real changes in the state life only by means of glasnost and press freedom, the International Journalists Center plans to take an active part in democratic reforms in the country.

Details on Journalists Center

LD0408094190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0330 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] An International Center of Journalists has been founded. Its tasks are to focus the attention of the Soviet and foreign public on tackling problems common to all mankind, and to represent the interests of journalists and their publications in various state and international organizations. Mezentsev, head of the press center of the interregional group of deputies, has become its president. Let us tell you about the new organization in detail. It is independent and public. It was set up by the 21st Century Association that unites dozens of states, and cooperative and joint enterprises. The association has its own commercial bank. Its authorized capital stands at R50 million. Realizing that it is possible to achieve real changes in the life of a state only by means of glasnost and freedom of press, the International Center of Journalists plans to take an active part in democratic reforms in the country.

New Cable TV Union Elects Sagalayev President

LD0408023990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] The Union of USSR Cable Broadcast Television Organizaitons [soyuz organizatsiy kabelnogo i efirnogo televideniya SSSR] has been set up in our country. Its founding congress ended today in the Ostankino Concert Studio in Moscow.

Cable television will make it possible not only to expand the range of programs for television viewers, but also, by using blue screens, to find out details about the life of one's home region and, for instance, participate in an election campaign or a referendum. The new union has been formed to develop this promising area more effectively.

Eduard Sagalayev, editor in chief of the Main News Department of Central Television, has been elected president of this public organization.

Union Desires 'Independent' TV

LD0508202190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1419 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer Aleksey Yermilov] At the end of last week—to be more precise, on Friday [3 August]—a new public organization, in fact an entire union of organizations, took its place in our country. It is the Union of Cable TV Organizations. I attended the inaugural congress of this union. It was held at the Ostankino Concert Studio, next door to us, and lasted three days. The preparation of the congress took a lot of time, as I was told on the last day of the congress by (Vitaliy Vasilyevich Rashko), the chairman of the organizing committee, who spoke to me in the foyer after the meeting was over.

[Begin recording] [(Rashko)] Yes, the organizing committee spent four months setting it up. We did not hurry. We wanted to make sure that everything was done properly and that democratic documents were adopted. Now the rules have been adopted. A president has been elected. He is Eduard Mikhaylovich Sagalayev, a broadcaster and television personality who is well known to everybody in his capacity as editor in chief of the "Vremya" newscast. [passage omitted]

[Sagalayev] It seems to me that if the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting—Gosteleradio—or the USSR Communications Ministry try to resist this logical development of events, they will not be doing themselves any good even though that could slow down the development of the cable network to a certain extent. I do not think we should have any illusions. Until a market economy and a market in ideas are set up in this country, we will not be getting any presents from any kindly uncle. Bureaucracy can destroy any project, either in an open struggle or in a smothering embrace. Only by uniting our ranks can we ourselves forge our own happiness, so to speak.

What does this happiness consist of? Cable and broadcast TV exist in many forms. This is an indispensible condition for the existence of the union. There must not, it seems to me, be any dictatorship or discrimination in favor of one form at the expense of others. All forms must develop. If a rayon TV studio exists somewhere, let it be. That's wonderful. If video cassettes are being produced somehere, let that continue. That's wonderful. The important thing is that all this should be beneficial to society, and that it should all take place within the context of the Constitution and civilized behavior.

[Yermilov] Some people think that Gosteleradio may crush all its rivals, including the cable network, and simply deprive them of the economic and technical facilities they need.

[Sagalayev] Well, Gosteleradio has set up its own technical production association for cable TV. As far as I am aware, it is not intending to crush competitors. Here we have to seek the best possible combination of interests. I

think it is premature to be fearful of the future simply because this is Gosteleradio, a state organization. Let's wait and see what steps Gosteleradio will take. Maybe we will find out that it's a friend, comrade, companion, colleague, partner, and so on. [passage omitted]

[Yermilov] Eduard Mikhaylovich, let me ask you a last question. When you set out your program today, you said that you are currently giving a great deal of attention to alternative TV, as one can probably call it—the studios of the 21st century.

[Sagalayev] What we are talking about is the television company, the joint stock company. One would like the television of the 21st century to be referred to as a channel. Probably it will take the form of a television company, the joint stock company. Only yesterday this question—its legal and political aspects—were discussed at the collegium of Gosteleradio. Everything depends on these aspects, rather than on technical facilities, although that too is of course a most acute question. One is talking about the creation of independent television.

This word "independent" is terribly intimidating, of course. In this country we have quite simply lost the natural understanding of the term "state." We equate the state with the government, for example. This is one of the general defects of our thinking and awareness. Everywhere I go, I am asked: How can anything be independent? That is unrealistic, people say. But now there are fairly solid grounds for thinking that such a step can be taken. And I think it will be taken, again, because the country is heading for a market. I do not think it is very realistic now to assume that the R2.5 billion subsidy that Gosteleradio currently receives will be paid out next year. In a year's time, rather than next year, I should say. This tap will definitely be turned off in some way. So we will have to reconcile ourselves to the fact that TV will have to pay its own way, that there must be competition, and so on and so forth. Everything will happen naturally, just as it happens in life itself.

[Yermilov] Logically.

[Sagalayev] Yes. Here one is talking about very noble objectives.

[Yermilov] The setting up of a separate channel.

[Sagalayev] Yes, this will be a separate channel. It will be as depoliticized as possible. The television viewer has a right to insist that the country have a channel which strives to be independent of all political forces and parties; whose main aim is the lofty idea of enlightening and informing people about what is really happening in the country. [end recording]

'600 Seconds' Program Manager Interviewed

90US1142B Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jul 90 p 2

[Interview with Aleksandr Borisoglebskiy, "manager" of the "600 Seconds" television program, by L. Terentyeva; place and date not given: "'600 Seconds' Set Free"]

[Text] They were always somewhat more free than all the rest. Perhaps that is why they achieved such popularity. Their lack of restraint and the right to their own interpretation of any information divided viewers into active admirers and vindictive enemies. There was no third category. Hardly anywhere in the entire country, even in the absence of all-Union broadcasting, would someone be found who knew nothing about the Leningrad television program "600 Seconds." At first, you will recall, everybody expressed astonishment—how is it they have not yet wound up behind bars? Then people got used to it somewhat. And now, beginning on 1 July this year, their freedom has acquired a legal basis. A separate, **independent** creative association of television, "600 Seconds," has been formed within the Leningrad Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting.

How can something be independent "within..."? Where does "independent" money come from? Generally speaking, how can the mass media in our country become independent just like that? There are hundreds of questions. I phoned the manager of "600 Seconds," Aleksandr Borisoglebskiy, who clarified:

[Borisoglebskiy] Actually I am not the manager, but the producer. The organizational chart of the television studio does not provide the positions necessary for our association. We don't have the position of producer, of course; therefore my work record book has been annotated purely and simply—"manager."

[Terentyeva] So what is the general structure of the new association?

[Borisoglebskiy] Right now we only have eight people. The artistic director is Nevzorov. We also have a senior editor, editor, director, and so forth. Of course we would like to get everyone who works on our program to be attached, but right now the association is limited in staff positions.

[Terentyeva] The "independent" association is limited? In other words, financial dependence remains all the same? But any economic lever enables ideological control to be introduced!"

[Borisoglebskiy] We are still financially dependent, although not in every aspect. We are already finding sponsors for ourselves and other kinds of "independent" revenue—I think we will soon become completely free. In addition, a great deal depends on whose hands this monetary lever finds itself in. It is the people who work everywhere you have to be able to get along with.

[Terentyeva] And equipment?

[Borisoglebskiy] First of all, equipment can be leased for money. Second, self-supporting organizations—"Russian Video," for example—are helping us right now with equipment. Of course, at the very outset of operation of our independent creative television association, we are just now looking for sponsors and assistants capable of supplying us with the necessary equipment.

Friends of the program have come to include a great many enthusiasts (in the good sense of the word). Drivers of the "Sovtransauto" Association recently collected their personal currency savings and intend to help us purchase some kind of equipment. It is only the economic aspect of our independence in which we are presently lagging behind.

[Terentyeva] And is it true that everyone who works in the association withdrew from social organizations in order to be completely objective and independent?

[Borisoglebskiy] No, that is not true as of now. On 1 July there were no CPSU or Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] members among us, but we recently acquired a new employee who is currently a party member. Our information must be devoid of ideological commitment to one social organization or another. Only then will we be truly free.

MOSCOW GAZETTE To Resume Publication

LD0408145190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Summary] The newspaper MOSCOW GAZETTE [MOSKOVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] which was founded in the mid-18th century, is back in publication after a break of 73 years. According to Editor in Chief Leonid Krasner, the paper will appear twice a month, eventually publishing a daily supplement with the latest news. It covers all aspects of Moscow life and will be free of political bias, its motto being "we record the capital's history."

Commentary Welcomes New Press Law

LD0508141490 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Commentary by Boris Markovnikov on "recently passed" press law]

[Excerpts] All people I've talked to about this law, journalists and ordinary readers, evaluate it highly. For 73 years we have waited for such a law. Under Soviet adminstration, our mass media were ordered about by government officials as their servants. A journalist wrote with a censor behind his back, wakeful to protect the supreme state secret: the truth. [passage omitted]

This is really a fine law; let's hope it will be fully implemented. It is easier to pass a law here than to put it into practice, and the new law is facing some problems; an acute shortage of paper and printing facilities. The strings to distributing those supplies are still held by the state and the Communist Party apparatus. The officials are still free to allow or deny such vital supplies and they still abuse that power. It is easy to see their attitude if they are critcized. They represent such criticism as an attack on the pillars of the state. There is talk of raising prices on dailies and periodicals that may cut off many of the present subscribers who wouldn't be able to afford them.

As you see, there are still many obstacles to a full implementation of the new law on the press but mass media can now play a major positive role in that process. For the bold and productive leads taken by the press under restructuring, the people are calling it the fourth power in the state after the three basic powers: legislative, executive, and judiciary.

Western Border Crossings Operating Normally

LD0308133890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] The crossing checkpoints on the western border have begun operating in a routine business-like manner again. Following the decision adopted by the country's government, the restrictions announced earlier concerning trips abroad by Soviet citizens holding internal passports with special inserts have been lifted here. This measure, however, has been adopted an an exception, and will be in force only until 10 August. Our correspondent reports from Brest that about 7,000 people and about 1,000 vehicles have passed the western Bug crossing point in the last 24 hours. Tension at the crossing points has been relieved.

Innocent Travelers Affected by Border Restrictions

LD0308133790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] This routine Mayak bulletin is devoted to the new procedure for exit to East European countries.

There is no let-up in the passions surrounding the suspension of the USSR Council of Ministers decision of 27 September 1988 simplifying the procedure for the exit of Soviet citizens abroad. It has been explained to a TASS correspondent at the State Foreign Economic Commission and the Main Directorate for State Customs Control at the USSR Council of Ministers that this [suspension] was prompted by an initiative from bodies of Soviet power in the Ukraine and Belorussia. They managed to convince the Soviet Government that the sharp deterioration in the provision of industrial and food commodities to the population of the western frontier regions of the USSR and the exacerbation of the situation in the Soviet market are connected with the mass export of these goods by citizens going abroad. This applies to people heading for Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary.

Time will tell whether the situation in the consumer market in western regions of our country will become less tense as this decision comes into effect. However, the journalist notes, it affects the interests of tens of thousands of honest Soviet citizens leaving for those neighboring countries on private business without any ulterior motives. Let us remind you that, in accordance with current legislation, citizens are admitted through the USSR state frontier by frontier troops upon presentation of documents granting the right to enter or leave the USSR. Registration of such documents and their

issue to citizens are performed by the relevant institutions of the USSR Interior Ministry. Until the suspension of the above-mentioned decision, they issued inserts for Soviet passports for private journeys to East European countries. Moreover, the foreign ministries of Union republics used to register official documents for citizens sent to those countries on business in exactly the same way, and still do so. Now, visa and registration directorates have stopped issuing inserts for passports, and the frontier troops are not letting holders of these documents across the frontier.

A number of questions arise here. Are inserts issued earlier valid now? What are the over 200,000 people holding them to do: hand them in to visa and registration directorates and get back the money paid for their registration? And what about those on business, those who are going for a funeral, for treatment, or other urgent matters, for example? The TASS correspondent believes that if a decision is taken on each case individually, then the queues in the offices of those responsible will become, at best, the very same phenomenon as queues for cigarettes. These questions need to be answered in the immediate future. That will somehow lift the tension, of which we have enough already.

Economic

Gorbachev, Yeltsin To Supervise Working Group

PM0308162290 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Academician Ye.M. Primakov, member of the Presidential Council, by IZVESTIYA correspondent M. Berger; place and date not given: "Under the Supervision of M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin"]

[Text] [Berger] In recent days our newspaper has published reports on the formation of a working group for the joint drafting of a concept for the transition to a market economy. Could you tell us in more detail for what purpose this group was set up?

[Primakov] A working group has indeed been formed to prepare a concept for a Union program for the transition to a market economy as the basis of the Union treaty. I would like to stress that the transition to a market economy should in no circumstances be viewed in isolation from the drafting of a new Union treaty which is now under way with a view to ensuring the republics' sovereignty in the conditions of a united Union market. The concept being prepared will of course make this dialectical relationship paramount.

The accord on the formation of the group was achieved between M.S. Gorbachev, president of the USSR; B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet; N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and I.S. Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

[Berger] Can it be assumed that this group will be working on the basis of a number of documents that have already been prepared?

[Primakov] Yes, that is indeed the case. Furthermore the group is called upon to synthesize the materials already drawn up in the USSR Government, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, the proposals of other Union republics, and the expert report group on alternative options for the transition to a market economy under the leadership of Academician A.G. Aganbegyan.

The USSR Government is engaged in serious work in this direction, having come a long way from the initial draft that was submitted for examination by the USSR Supreme Soviet. There is much that is interesting and bold in the Russian "500 Days" program. It is very important that its authors—some of whom were formerly undeservedly on the periphery of public attention—do not lay claim to a monopoly of the truth and are prepared for businesslike cooperation with the country's government.

We now very much need to take a broad look at the problem, compare different viewpoints, and synthesize the bold but thoughtful alternatives.

[Berger] But might it be thought that the main idea in forming the working party is to bring about a rapprochement in positions between the central government and the RSFSR organs of power?

[Primakov] Of course, the formation of a united concept taking into account the opinion of the Union republic that is biggest in terms of population, territory, and economic potential is of key significance. But this in no way minimizes the role of the other Union republics. Without their participation in the formulation of this synthesized document—and subsequently their approval—the concept is unviable and naturally its implementation will prove impossible.

[Berger] Are realistic conditions being created so that the working group has access to all the necessary statistics and information?

[Primakov] On the instructions of the USSR president, all ministries, departments, organizations, and institutions are obliged to make available to the working group all the necessary economic and other special information without restrictions.

[Berger] We have already reported on the composition of the group, but our information came from an unofficial source. Could you enlarge on our information?

[Primakov] As you reported, the group includes a number of well-known scientists and practitioners, Academicians S.S. Shatalin and L.I. Abalkin and corrresponding members N.Ya. Petrakov and V.A. Martynov; G.A. Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; Professor N.P. Shmelev; B.G. Fedorov, RSFSR minister of finance; and others. In addition the USSR president recommended that the

group include plenipotentiary representatives of the governments of the Union republics, and also that if necessary scientists and specialists be brought in to work on the concept, irrespective of the institutions and departments at which they work.

The administrators of affairs of the USSR Presidential Council and the RSFSR Council of Ministers are instructed to provide technical support for the working group. The date for the concept to be submitted is no later than 1 September 1990.

I think it is important to stress that the group's work will be under the direct supervision of M.S. Gorbachev and B.N. Yeltsin.

Prospects for Market Economy Viewed

PM0608091790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Article by M. Berger under the rubric "On Topics of the Day": "Leaders' Alliance Means Hope of Concord"]

[Text] The INTERFAX agency has reported that USSR President M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, have agreed to set up an expert group of scientists and specialists with the broad participation of Union republic representatives who will elaborate a concept of the transition to a market economy on a Union-wide scale. The program must be prepared by September when the USSR and RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet sessions begin their work.

This is undoubtedly the most important news item today. And not only because this is the first documentary agreement between the two leaders on such a fundamental question as economic policy. It is essentially the first step toward integration, or rather the first hope of integration during the recent time of discord and mutual reproaches against the center by the republics and vice versa. Let us face up to the truth—this is almost the last chance to halt the disintegrational processes that have practically paralyzed the Union economy which is already in an extremely parlous state by virtue of its internal laws and the contradictions inherent, as it has turned out, in the chosen model of development.

The program which is being created must be made the basis of the economic part of the Union treaty and in general, it is to be supposed, of the treaty itself. It must not be forgotten that the divergence and separatism, although they had political aims and developed against a political background, began precisely along economic lines. At present the group contains 13 people: S. Shatalin, N. Petrakov, L. Abalkin, G. Yavlinskiy, A. Vavilov, L. Grigoryev, M. Zadornov, V. Martynov, V. Mashchits, A. Mikhaylov, B. Fedorov, N. Shmelev, and G. Yasin. As can be seen, in addition to well-known people it also includes experts who are not yet widely known but who are undoubtedly competent and able and have gotten their historic chance. Naturally, the list is not closed—the group is to include representatives of the republics with their own ideas and proposals. The idea is not to confront the country with at least 15 reform options but to create a synthesized action program including all the very best.

If all the sides involved in the elaboration succeed in reaching agreement and if political ambitions or republican protectionism do not prevail, then as a result a mechanism might arise for formulating and implementing the sovereign republics' mutually agreed actions—a mechanism so essential to the creation of a Union market. If this step were not taken and Russia and the other republics were each to put forward their own program, then whose would be the program for the transition to a market which the Union government is drawing up at the request of the Supreme Soviet?

The group will take as its basis the Russian "500 days" program (because this program exists and as G. Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and one of its elaborators, says, was conceived as a program for the whole Union) with the maximum inclusion of everything that the republics propose. The imperial diktat of the center will probably be ruled out here since the republics' rejection of particular conditions and a lack of agreement will make all work pointless. But the same circumstance guarantees the preservation of the all-Union market and the Union as a whole in the event of consensus being reached while drawing up the program.

The group's members reckon that such a consensus is quite likely for the program is based on market mechanisms for stabilizing and developing the market itself—mechanisms tested by world practice and modified to suit our reality. Following these principles necessarily entails the full deideologization of the economic policy that is being drawn up—which must also contribute to the sovereign republics' real unification.

Will the republics adopt a common action program? Of course everything will depend on what they are offered. If it is the former policy of half-measures it is not hard to predict the result. Precisely that policy put the ruble in an absolutely "nonmonetary" state, and you can understand the republics' desire to protect their economies with their own currency. The fact that this is no salvation is another matter. In the opinion of N. Petrakov, a multiplicity of currencies while preserving interrepublican exchange—and today all are sentenced to this in any case—will mean reproducing the impracticable system of CEMA transactions with a large range of unconvertible monetary units. Who would cut himself off from a strong, full-weight ruble?

The market as an economic mechanism inevitably takes account of the interests of all its contracting parties—not classes or territories—since otherwise it is no longer a market but something else. But in all probability these are the only possible conditions on which unification is possible. So everything will depend on the degree of

radicality of the end product which the group is to come up with in the very near future.

The experts involved in the group realize that they are faced with extremely complex work, complex not just because of the crisis state of the economy, the social tension in society, and the exacerbation of interethnic contradictions. The legislative acts already adopted by the republics with a view to developing and consolidating sovereignty will pose a considerable problem. This in itself is a normal phenomenon and the conclusion of the Union treaty from these positions will accord with the interests of the contracting parties. However not all the decisions adopted by the republican parliaments in this connection fit in with each other. It is hardly possible to count on the parliaments revising any legislative acts, at least in the very near future, and so the group will have to proceed in its work from the existing realities which have taken shape today.

It must be emphasized that the fact that an alliance of authorities—M. Gorbachev and B. Yeltsin—has emerged is a decisive circumstance. The program of the transition to a market needs broad support. The pooling of efforts and concerted actions by the two undoubtedly most authoritative leaders in our country provide the program which is being elaborated with a new credit of confidence, and this despite all the difficulties gives it a great chance of success.

Opponent of Free Enterprise Zone Interviewed

LD0508200490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] [Announcer] We have already informed our listeners on setting up free economic zones in a number of areas of the country. They are assessed positively in most cases. There are some opponents however. One of them is Ivan Sergeyevich Korolev, deputy head of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations of the USSR Academy of Sciences, who met with our correspondent, Aleksandr Nifedov.

[Korolev] I am one of few active, so to speak, opponents of free economic zones in the USSR, though of course in certain cases these zones can be set up—especially in the form of a technopolis or in the form of some kind of free territories next to sea ports or aviation ports, the way used all over the world.

Major territorial free economic zones are phenomena taking place in developing countries and in particular in China. In my point of view the experience of these zones is not convincing. At the same time one must bear in mind that what is taking place in China is a completely diffent case. There are Huaqiao, rich Chinese who live outside China, who do want to invest money in China. These four coastal zones were a kind of filter the Chinese had put up to preserve some kind of barrier between activities of foreign business undertakings in China and the rest of the economy. We simply do not need this. What we need is for foreign investments to become part and parcel of our economy, for them to develop multiple ties with all our enterprises. Then we have a chance to obtain a kind of working model of the modern market economy. At the same time I think it may be even best to proceed not along the way of setting up joint enterprises but letting them be entirely foreign enterprises belonging to some respectable firm. Let it have a sole charge of some car manufacturing plant. Then there wil be a possibility of a competition between our Ministry of Automobile Industry and this new plant. Market means competition and freedom of trade. We must strive to this. It is necessary to understand that this is going to be quite lengthy process, but we can do some things in certain areas quickly.

[Nefedov] Can you provide some examples?

[Korolev] Of course. For example, setting up such small-scale productions for processing agricultural produce. Small sausage work shops, small workshops for smoking ham must be everywhere, in every small town. They should produce these items for themselves. Thanks to this alone our losses during transportation and storage of agricultural produce are to drop sharply. Of course it would be ideal if those enterprises were some private, family, or some small enterprises. During the present stage those can be enterprises within local soviets. Collective farms can own some kind of small enterprises for processing agricultural produce, and why not?

[Nifedov] Tell me please, coming back to free economic zones, can you forecast their future in some way?

[Korolev] These zones are unlikely to attract foreign capital. This is understandable because we can attract foreign capital by specific project. This can be either studies of some natural resources on conditions advantageous to us or some kind of technopolis where our undertaking were used in some industries. A third way we can also attract foreign capital is with the possibility of selling to the entire vast Soviet market, namely with the possibility of the market. So this is what we can attract them with.

Whichever good free economic zones we could think of, it is highly unlikely that it will be better than the economic system which exists in Western countries. It means that a free economic zone is to some extent [word indistinct]; it fences itself off from the rest of the economy. In this case this cannot be the cardinal way of attracting foreign capital.

I think all local bodies of power—it is not important whether they declared themselves to be a free economic zone or not—should have an opportunity to attract foreign capital: for example, Ryazan. It did not declare itself to be a free economic zone. But they should use their key factors, their opportunities aiming at attracting foreign capital. This is how it is done in the whole world. At the same time, I am familiar to some extent with the project of the free economic zone in Leningrad. I think

many proposals being put forward by them are absolutely correct, but why call it a free economic zone? [as heard]

[Nifedov] Does this name matter, Ivan Sergeyevich?

[Korolev] I think the name also matters because respectable and prominent businessmen are mislead by a name that is not precise. Prominent businessmen, when they see something we are doing and cannot understand it, are scared away even more. This is all.

[Nifedov] Well, and so your cancellation?

[Korolev] I favor declaring the entire Soviet Union to be a free economic zone.

Blockade of Transcaucasian Railway Reported

LD0408194290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Interview with Aleksandr Dmitriyevich Vasiliyev, acting USSR procurator general, by correspondent V. Stefanov; place and date not given; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Let us remember the recent report on the blockade of the Transcaucasian railway.

[Stefanov] Aleksandr Dmitriyevich, did there actually take place an infringement of the law at the Samtredia railways station? Does our legislation make provision for responsibility for such actions?

[Vasilyev] Yes, indications of a crime under Article 206.3 of the criminal code of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic are present in those actions that were carried out on the railway at the Samtredia station. I must say that officials of the procuracy and the Transcaucasian transport procuracy actively participated in precautionary work aimed at preventing this blockade with all its resulting grave economic and moral consequences. However, unfortunately the organizers of this action—and as far as we know this illegal action was organized by representatives of the Ilya the Righteous Society [Obshchestvo Ili Pravednogo] and the Monarchist Party—were not guided by prudence. For this reason, a criminal case has been opened under the aforementioned article 206.3 and an investigation is under way. I must say that among the punishments provided for by this article is imprisonment for up to three years.

I would like to note that all political groupings pursuing any of their aims—and in a number of instances these are ambitious aims—must know clearly that the solution of political problems cannot be tolerated at the expense of breaking the law.

I must note that the investigation into this crime, which is being undertaken by the Transcaucasian transport procuracy, is being monitored by the USSR Procuracy and we are undertaking all measures—and I want to assure the viewers of this—to insure that justice and the law win.

Railway Minister Reviews Transport Difficulties

LD0508154790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1241 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Summary] In an interview on Rail Workers' Day, Nikolay Semenovich Konarev, USSR minister of railways, said in part:

Rail transport is, on the whole, functioning reliably, but it is not achieving the level of results needed. There has been a marked reduction in the volume of freight transported. We transported 70 million tonnes less than in the corresponding period last year, and last year was not our best year. One reason for the lower level of achievement is the fact that there has been a reduction of night work and Saturday and Sunday work. The railways operate around the clock while most enterprises work a single shift or a maximum of two shifts. As a result, the level say of our night work has dropped from 28 percent previously to somewhere in the region of 19 percent. Compared with last year, night loading has decreased by 2,100 railcars.

Rail workers have been working very responsibly in conditions where strikes and paralyzed traffic flows have been hampering them. Now rail workers need to do everything possible to transport the new harvest. Everything needs to be done to achieve the expected figure of 260 million tonnes.

The Ministry of Finance has told the Railway Ministry that with the transition to market conditions there will no longer be any subsidies for railways. In this connection, the railways will need to achieve a balance between income and expenditure. The Ministry of Railways calculates that price increases will be unavoidable. This applies primarily to the subways which are now heavily subsidized.

GATT Official on Solving Soviet Crisis

90UF0353A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 21 Jul 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "A Recipe for the Soviet Economy?"]

[Text] **Geneva, 20 July (TASS)—If they had asked me what the Soviet economy needs today I would have answered this way: to move decisively out of its self-isolation.**

This was the opinion which Richard Blakehurst, director of the department of economic studies for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), expressed during an interview with a TASS correspondent. Only inclusion in world trade and economic exchange will in fact assist in revealing the strong and weak aspects of the Soviet economy. In any event, life has shown that

isolation, the basic idea of which is self-sufficiency, leads to the progressive impoverishment of society. Today no country or government can hope to succeed in all sectors of economics. The intensifying world division of labor, which is accompanied by the formation of a single world market, offers each country the opportunity to find its own place in mankind's economic activity and to use the strong aspects of its economy and its natural resources for the maximum return.

It is clear that today it is more profitable to grow coffee in Brazil and Colombia, sow clothing in the developing countries, and make wide-bodied aircraft in the United States. There is also no doubt that the Soviet Union has sectors whose output will enjoy greater demand. However, this can be checked only in the competitive struggle in the world markets.

If a country and its enterprises are not involved in world exchange this has the most negative consequences on economic activity. In Blakehurst's opinion, isolation is self-destructive for the economy.

Agricultural

Saratov, Uralsk Oblasts Report Harvest Problems

PM0308104790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 31 Jul 90

[Report by S. Medvedev and V. Ryazanov and cameraman N. Fedorov from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] [video shows aerial view of farm land, shots of Ryzhkov entourage, agricultural equipment] The grain harvest this year has been unusually bountiful for these parts, no less than 6 million tonnes specialists estimate. The most valuable part of the harvest is the famous Transvolga variety of strong and durum wheat. It has not proved all that easy to bring in the harvest and make a profit. The rain is disrupting the rhythm of this July's nonharvesting work. There is a shortage of spares for equipment. Facilities for grain storage and processing are poor. The country people think that the cities could do more to help the harvest. How can the pace of work be accelerated, losses of grain minimized, and new economic relations—the lease system—be brought fully into play? Machine operators, specialists, and leaders talked about this with commitment and passion during their meeting with Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov. [video shows agricultural equipment in operation] New problems have emerged associated with the transition to market relations—there is particular interest in them. Peasants are not indifferent to the way in which their prosperity is ensured or to what they can buy with the rubles they earn.

[Video shows truck, fields of crops] Here we are on the road again, seeing gratifying fields of millet. Saratov Oblast is one of the country's largest suppliers of this major hulled crop. And these are soybeans with their own concentration of protein. Dozens of new, high-yield varieties of grain and feed crops have been developed by scientists at the Krasnyy Kut Experimental Seed Selective Breeding Station. Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov inquired about the seed selective breeders' work and the possibility of accelerating the development rate of new varieties, using the latest developments in biotechnology to that end.

[Video shows aerial view of farm land] This is already the neighboring area. We didn't notice our helicopter crossing the border into Kazakhstan's Uralsk Oblast. Still the same pancake-flat steppe, the same fields, and incidentally similar problems, although here they are producing around six quintals of grain per hectare less than in Saratov Oblast. [video shows harvesting in progress] These are the fields of Kamenskiy Rayon's Lenin Sovkhoz [state farm]. Peasants never like to predict the future, but here—even at the start of the harvest—people are estimating that grain yields will be around three times last year's level. But the threshing floors and silos—especially the small-capacity ones—aren't elastic, as they say. They are already failing to cope with an influx of grain which is literally swamping them. There should be more of them closer to the harvesting areas. But there aren't, and the grain needs to be transported. But there's no transport. [video shows grain stored in the open] Normal work requires 250 railcars a day—the railroads are currently providing half this number. Here, on the border between two republics, there's a tangible feeling that unless joint work is coordinated things will be hard. And people need to help each other—incidentally, such help is provided here every year. How often has it been said that one-fifth of all our foodstuffs are processed out of grain. And now that the grain is ready it would be a crime to lose most of it—as was the case in years gone by. But, unfortunately, the threat of this happening is still real. [passage omitted]

Ryzhkov Visits Saratov, Uralsk

PM0508194590 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 2 Aug 90 Second Edition p 1

[Report: "The Harvest: Economics and Politics. N.I. Ryzhkov's Visit to Saratov and Uralsk Oblasts"]

[Text] "I am thinking about a time when our country will stop buying grain abroad." These words spoken by N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, in a conversation with Volga grain growers seem to have a chance of becoming a reality. Cause for optimism is provided by familiarization with the situation in the country's major grain producing areas—Saratov Oblast and Kazakhstan. The head of the USSR Government visited here 31 July-1 August.

His travels, or rather his helicopter hop around kolkhozes [collective farms] and sovkhozes [state farms], began right in the Volga area fields where the harvest is being gathered. It is an unprecedented harvest. Experts believe that it will be bigger than the record harvest gathered in 1973. But it is not for nothing that people say the grain which counts is not the grain in the fields but

the grain in the granaries. Harvesting it without loss is a problem, and a considerable one at that.

Machine operators and truck drivers, kolkhoz chairmen and sovkhoz directors, and rayon leaders spoke out at meetings in the fields about the constraints on harvesting. How can the grain be harvested rapidly and in full when in Saratov Oblast today, for example, there is only one combine for each 300 hectares? And that is if all the equipment is working. In fact many machines are idle.

For example, the "Komintern" Kolkhoz in Krasnokutskiy Rayon waited for almost a week for decent weather to go out into the fields. They had managed to windrow before the weather turned bad, but then fell behind with picking up the grain. They now have to make up for the lost time. Luckily they are getting a "Don-1500" combine. For this kind of grain these combines are the very thing.

The questions raised were ordinary and everyday as it were, questions that are also typical for other regions too. But it is clear to everyone that both the people's mood, and ultimately their performance, depend on their solution.

As for "harvesting strategy," under the conditions of economic independence Saratov's grain farmers are trying to change the rigid pattern of sown areas and sowing larger areas with crops that benefit both the country and the farms. N.I. Ryzhkov described these measures as the first shoots of market relations which will untie the farmers' hands and make them profits.

In the fields of the Krasnyy Kut experimental selection station—the oldest in the country—the "Internatsional" kolkhoz, and the "Krasnyy Kut" state poultry breeding farm, there was a discussion about the possibilities of increasing the scale of cultivation of high-yielding locally bred strains. One can only welcome the initiative of the economic managers who are expanding sowings of millet, buckwheat, soya, and nontraditional feed crops as part of the "small" food program. Special attention was devoted to the feed problem.

The Council of Ministers chairman elucidated in detail all the nuances of grain procurements, drawing first one then another minister from Moscow into the solution of urgent questions. It should be mentioned that two of the government head's deputies—V.V. Nikitin and V.K. Gusev—came to Saratov with him. So it was like a real visiting session of the Council of Ministers.

The closest attention was devoted to the situation in Kazakhstan's grain fields. The visit to Uralsk Oblast's Kamenskiy Rayon, where harvesting is in full swing, provided an opportunity to experience first-hand the tension linked with the upcoming harvesting effort. What is essentially the prelude to the big virgin-land harvesting campaign is being played out here. This is the time to sort out such fundamental questions as the provision of road and rail transport, fuel, and spare parts. In brief, the implementation of government decisions is being checked out.

Answering a "sly" question about whether this trip was another gesture toward administrative edict methods of economic leadership, N.I. Ryzhkov said that he had no intention of rushing around "sorting out" any bottlenecks here but simply wanted to see with his own eyes what there is in the fields, to look at the harvest away from his Moscow office, and to calmly look into the problems it is causing.

There were a tremendous number of meetings over the two days: at the "Engelsskiy" Sovkhoz, the XIX Partsyed and "Pobeda" Kolkhozes, the "Khoper" Agro-Industrial Combine in Balashovo, in the streets of the oblast center, at the Saratov Aircraft Plant. It is impossible to count them all. And everywhere attention was focused on radical economic reform and the transition to regulated market relations. F miliarizing people with the government's intentions, N.I. Ryzhkov particularly noted the significance of the steps proposed to provide guarantees of the social protection of various strata of the population.

In an interview which N.I. Ryzhkov gave to TASS correspondents at the end of his visit, he said:

"Right now the harvest is a tremendous problem and it has to be solved together, by everyone. The countryside alone can't cope. If resolute measures aren't taken the harvest will die. Some people say that under economic accountability you can't send people off to join in the harvest. I believe that even under economic accountability arrangements, plants can find solutions such that people are given an interest in going. They can not only help but also bring home fresh vegetables and also earn some money. But if we leave the countryside to tackle the harvesting alone, the cities will be the first to suffer. The peasant will hold on to the grain and vegetables and townspeople will again be saying that the shelves are empty. It is therefore my view that it is necessary to look toward the countryside. There always has been seasonal work and there always will be. And everyone should participate in it."

Nikitin Interviewed on Harvest Priority Tasks

LD0308191790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The harvest must be saved. This was the way the issue was raised at the augmented sitting of the USSR Council of Minsiters Presidium. Comrade Nikitin, first deputy chairman of the country's Council of Ministers, gave an interview to our program today.

[Correspondent Sergey Milyanchikov] What are the government's priority tasks regarding saving this year's harvest?

[Nikitin] Two very important problems must be solved to save the harvest of grain and vegetables this year. The first problem the government solved today—a Council of Ministers' decision has been signed—is that of drawing in the necessary number of people to bring in the vegetable harvest. This is very important, and furthermore we have in mind that this will not be a compulsory, administrative action, but it must be an action that is mutually understood and that would be of interest to both sides. The idea is to give some sort of incentive to those who are drawn in to help with the harvest; to give them first and foremost the opportunity of acquiring vegetables—good quality fresh vegetables—for good pay. This is one of the measures.

Some places most likely will not be able to manage without students. The government deemed it expedient to adopt the decision to permit students to be drawn in for a month where necessary, postponing classes accordingly. We have in mind higher education establishments, secondary schools, and vocational technical schools. We would like, however, for this to be a voluntary matter and I do not doubt that it will be. We think students will respond where it is impossible to manage without them. The government in its turn adopted the following decision: Students brought in should not be liable to tax on their pay for bringing in the harvest. That all relates to people.

The second problem which must be tackled more energetically is that of bringing in transport, primarily motor vehicle transport, for bringing in the harvest. The following decision has already been adopted, the chairman of the Council of Ministers signed it this morning: All enterprises without exception are to hand over no less than 15 percent—and where necessary more than that—of their truck pool to agriculture for the harvesting period. Furthermore, in addition to what it has already allocated, the minister of defense is to allocate a further 10,000 vehicles—together with drivers—for the period up to 1 November for transportation of grain and vegetables. Seven [7,000] of them will go to Kazakhstan, and three [3,000] to Russia.

A series of other decisions have also been adopted which in some regard strengthen the economy of agriculture and create conditions for reducing losses which we unfortunately still sustain in great measure while the harvest is being brought in.

Nikitin Blames Self for Shortage of Tobacco

LD0508153990 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] It has been reported that the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium has taken measures directed at accelerating harvesting and salvaging the harvest. At the same time, together with the major matters of providing the harvest with transportation, other material and technical facilities, as well as workers' and students' detachments, the Council of Ministers has discussed the problem of providing tobacco products. This is what Vladelen Nikitin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Commission for Food and Purchases, said at the meeting.

[Begin Nikitin recording] Wherever we are—in the field, especially in the town, in factories—the tobacco question stands before all other matters. Here we simply must comprehend what is heppening and support the loss to all other matters. Well today, of 50 tobacco factories in the country, 39 are working. In the course of this week it will be 45. At every factory, every day, these issues are being resolved. But I must say that while they were being repaired, the aim was simply that there was no raw material and for a month raw material was brought in. Today the the factories can work for a month and can completely satisfy the demand by the populace for cigarettes and tobacco. This is how they are coping [raskruchivayutsya].

But, for this month we must purchase several appellations replenishing these cigarettes for hard currency. Filters, paper, all kinds of adhesive, everything which we have ceased making according to various considerations in our own country. I am asking the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity and all the rest who are concerned, you Pavel (?Ivanovich) [Mostovoy, of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply]. But this week we have just been looking for culprits. Whose fault is this? Who has been entrusted with this work? I agree that, primarily, I am probably to blame for this matter insofar as I bear responsibility for this in the government.

But there are also secondary persons at fault. Certain people are not providing finance. Certain people are not transferring money. Certain people are demanding a government ruling for every sneeze. This must cease. The tobacco situation is serious. Thus, over a week, not a kopeck has been transferred to firms which are supposed to be supplying the necessary raw materials, which is not being produced, for the production of cigarettes.

These are matters for the chemical and timber industry. In truth, not much has been delivered. These are matters for Pavel Ivanovich. The State Committee for Material and Technical Supply is not being supplied by Armenia, primarily. [end recording]

Government Decides on Vegetable Supply to North

LD0408190790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] The Soviet Government has examined the question of improving the organization of the supply of fruit and vegetables to the inhabitants of towns and industrial centers in the north of the country. A decision on this question was adopted today. The USSR Council of Ministers has agreed to a proposal made by the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives and the USSR Union of Production Cooperatives for Consumer Cooperation for the creation of trade and procurement associations for the supply of potatoes, vegetables, and fruit

to the cities of Murmansk, Archangel, Tyumen, Petrazavodsk, and Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, over and above the amounts supplied by the state.

The decision stresses that republican and local soviet bodies must give the utmost assistance to the trade and procurement associations in the procurement of fruit and vegetables and rigorously put a stop to all instances of illegal behavior inhibiting their activities.

PRAVDA Cites Kuban Grain Harvest Figures

PM0508180790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Aug 90 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent K. Aksenov: "The Cossack Way"]

[Excerpt] Krasnodar Kray—It is traditional that on days of celebration in many Kuban villages and hamlets, bands play and happy songs are sung in honor of the heroes of the completed harvest. Many victories have been won and many records set. But the main achievement is the high threshing level. An average of 53 quintals of grain have been obtained per hectare, and the gross crop exceeds 9 million tonnes. There is now a different problem: How to sensibly dispose of the harvest.

Kuban farmers planned to sell 4 million tonnes of grain to the state this year. And they have already dispatched over 3 million tonnes. They have coped with the wheat sales target: They have delivered 2.9 million tonnes to the state granaries as against a plan figure of 2.8 million. [passage omitted]

Resolutions on Harvesting Assistance Published

PM0508142690 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Aug 90 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the rubric "At the USSR Council of Ministers": "Gathering and Preserving the Crop"]

[Text] On 3 August the USSR Council of Ministers adopted a series of resolutions on urgent questions of gathering in this year's harvest. The full texts of these documents are published below.

On Additional Measures To Ensure the Gathering in of the 1990 Harvest

The USSR Council of Ministers notes that a good harvest of agricultural crops has been grown everywhere this year. However, harvesting work is being held back by the shortage of transportation facilities and manpower. Many grain regions of the Volga, the Urals, West Siberia, and Kazakhstan, as well as vegetable and potato farms, are in a particularly difficult position. With a view to ensuring the prompt gathering in and preservation of the harvest, the USSR Council of Ministers resolves:

1. Leaders of permanent organs of the USSR Council of Ministers, USSR ministers, and chairmen of USSR state committees are, without delay, to direct into harvesting work workers, employees, engineers, and technicians from the enterprises and organizations under their jurisdiction, with a view to giving the necessary assistance to kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural enterprises in harvesting grain and feed crops, sugar beet, potatoes, vegetables, and other agricultural produce. The results of the work done are to be reported to the USSR Council of Ministers within seven days.

Enterprise leaders, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and other agricultural organizations are to adopt concrete decisions to provide additional incentives for workers and employees enlisted for harvesting work, paying particular attention to the wide use of payment in kind for labor.

The USSR Council of Ministers State Commission for Food and Purchases and the Union republic governments are to ensure the prompt resolution of questions arising in connection with the gathering in of the harvest.

2. It is deemed necessary to assign to the transportation of agriucltural produce from this year's harvest at least 15 percent of the available pool of trucks (with drivers) belonging to industrial, construction, and other enterprises and organizations in the country.

USSR ministers and USSR state committee chairmen are to ensure the fulfillment of this decision.

Union republic governments are to ensure the rational utilization of the assigned motor transport, taking into account the peculiarities and needs of the republic.

3. Union republic governments are to examine the question of the additional enlistment of the able-bodied population of cities, workers' settlements, and rural settlements for agricultural work as well as work at grain reception enterprises and beet reception centers; and to provide premises and cultural, consumer, and medical services for the incoming workers as well as rational organization of highly productive labor on their part.

On the Participation of Students and Pupils at Educational Establishments in the Gathering in of the 1990 Harvest

In connection with the need to provide effective assistance in the gathering in of the large harvest of grain crops, potatoes, vegetables, and other agricultural produce grown in 1990; to prevent losses; and to improve food supplies to the population, the USSR Council of Ministers resolves:

1. It is deemed expedient to ensure more active participation by students at higher educational establishments [VUZ's] and pupils at secondary specialized educational establishments and vocational and technical schools in harvesting work.

The governments of Union republics, the USSR State Committee for Public Education, and ministries and departments having educational establishments are to assign to agricultural work for a period of not more than

one month VUZ students (except final-year students) and pupils in senior grades at secondary specialized educational establishments (except final-year students), as well as pupils at vocational and technical schools, during the period free from the educational process.

2. VUZ rectors and the directors of secondary specialized educational establishments and vocational and technical schools are to be allowed to defer the beginning of the academic year until later, but by not more than one month.

3. Leaders of agricultural enterprises are to adopt the necessary measures to ensure the organized reception of students and pupils, safe transportation for them and the organization of appropriate public catering and cultural, consumer, and medical services; and also to create the conditions for highly productive labor and a material interest in its results.

In view of the existing situation with the harvesting, students and pupils engaged in harvesting work in 1990 are to be exempted from the payment of income tax on earnings.

The USSR Council of Ministers appeals to all the country's students and pupils to take an understanding view of the present decision. The USSR Government is counting on the real help that students and pupils could provide in ensuring the gathering in of the harvest, thereby contributing to improving food supplies to the population and the socioeconomic position of the student body.

On Additional Provision of Trucks for Gathering in the 1990 Harvest

The USSR Council of Ministers resolves:

To instruct the USSR Defense Ministry to assign an additional 10,000 trucks with drivers from the ministry's available pool to the transportation of grain, sugar beet, feed, and other agriultural produce, as follows:

in the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic]—3,000 trucks from 10 August through 1 November 1990;

in the Kazakh SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]—7,000 trucks from 15 August through 1 November 1990.

The said trucks are to be assigned to the gathering in of the harvest on the terms stipulated by USSR Council of Ministers Resolution No. 620 of 29 June 1990.

(In accordance with USSR Government decisions adopted earlier, the USSR Defense Ministry has assigned 35,000 trucks to harvesting work.)

Scientific

'Mir' Cosmonauts Undertake Joint Work in Space

Different Experiments Listed

LD0408095690 Moscow TASS in English 0947 GMT 4 Aug 90

[By the TASS correspondent at the Mission Control Center]

[Text] Moscow August 4 TASS—Soviet cosmonauts Anatoliy Solovev, Aleksandr Balandin, Gennadiy Manakov, and Gennadiy Strekalov are continuing joint work aboard the oribiting platform Mir after the arrival of the latter pair there on Friday.

The spacemen today are to do medical and biological studies and conduct technical and biotechnological experiments. The new arrivals will also keep familiarising themselves with the whereabouts of the platform's diverse equipment and the peculiarities of its operation.

Under the space materials studies progam, the Zone-003 melting furnace was switched on to produce highly-pure semi-conductors with improved characteristics.

An experiment focusing on the crystallisation of various materials and alloys in zero gravity is simultaneously under way in equipment codenamed Kristallizator.

The Soyuz TM-10 module which delivered Manakov and Strekalov to orbit also carried five Japanese quails. They were transferred to special cages in the Inkubator-2 installation which offer the necessary conditions for the birds vital activity.

An experiment codenamed Vita and envisaged by a biotechnology studies program is under way to master methods of producing cellular cultures in weightless conditions for the needs of the pharmaceutical industry and molecular electronics.

Solovev and Balandin today will also do some physical training using the Chibis pneumatic vacuum suit which imitates gravity.

According to reports from orbit and telemetry data, the flight is proceeding normally. The four cosmonauts are in good health and feeling well.

Cosmonauts To Repair Hatch

LD0408135290 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Excerpts] On 4 August four Soviet cosmonauts staying on board the orbital space station Mir began their first joint working day. [passage omitted]

Manakov and Strekalov are also expected to do more important work to repair one of the hatches of the Mir station. That will have to be done outside the station. Variants of the repair work have already been rehearsed

on Earth. The head of the Soviet cosmonauts' training center, Vladimir Shatalov, is convinced that one walk in open space will be quite enough to fully complete the repairs of the hatch. As has been reported by ground control center, all the four cosmonauts feel well and all systems on board the space station are functioning properly. Stay informed with Radio Moscow about the more interesting stages of the new Soviet space mission.

New Descent Module Created

LD0408205690

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1800 GMT on 4 August broadcasts a three-minute report by correspondent Vladimir Bezyayev on the work of the cosmonauts aboard the Mir space station. All four cosmonauts are performing joint work which will continue for a week. The experienced Musa Manarov tells Bezyayev about the need for cosmonauts to work together in the initial stages as they grow used to the equipment. The new arrivals appear to be adapting rapidly to weightlessness. There are some 400 experiments to be performed in the space of the 132 days of the flight.

For the first time, a descent capsule will be used to get the results back to earth. Essentially every Progress freighter that goes to the space station can help return the results of experiments and research. "The designers have designed a small capsule which, when the spacecraft burns up on deceleration, separates and descends by parachute to the designated area. It is then collected. In other words, if a freighter goes to the station every couple of months, then no longer will we be getting back the results once every six months but once every two months instead."

Work Aboard 'Mir' Updated

LD0508103990 Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—Soviet cosmonauts Anatoliy Solovyov and Aleksandr Balandin today continued to acquaint the new shift—Gennadiy Manakov and Gennadiy Strekalov—with the peculiarities of maintaining the life-support and temperature control systems installed in orbital modules, TASS was told at the Mission Control Center.

Today's scientific program includes astrophysical research, biological, technological, and technical experiments.

Using devices on the surface of the Kristall module, the cosmonauts are expected to carry out a series of measurements of spatial and power response of X-ray, gamma-ray, and neturon space radiation.

They began experiments with biological objects including higher plants, ginseng tissue culture, and mollusks brought by the Soyuz TM-10 spacecraft. An experiment is being carried out in the Magnitogravisat installation to study the influence of nonuniform magnetic field on the development of flax in zero-gravity state.

The crew is also expected to conduct experiments in materials studies using the Kristallizator device, and the Rezonans experiment, aimed to determine dynamic characteristics of the large-size orbital complex.

According to medical examination results, the state of the cosmonauts' health is good.

The work in the orbit continues according to the schedule.

Joint Soviet-Japanese 'Soyuz' Mission Planned

LD0308153590 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Rena Kuznetsova]

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—The Soyuz TM-10 spaceship docked with the Mir complex today at 15:46, Moscow time. Two crews are now working in space.

Cosmonauts Gennadiy Manakov and Gennadiy Strekalov who will man the Mir complex during the seventh main space mission, will replace Anatoliy Solovyov and Aleksandr Balandin who have been working at the complex for nearly six months.

According to experts, the docking was made neatly and precisely on time. Numerous foreign correspondents who gathered at the Mission Control Centre watched the docking. They included Rioko Kikuchi and Toyehiro Akiyama, staff members of the Japanese TBS TV company.

One of them will participate in a joint Soviet-Japanese space mission scheduled for this December. They are preparing for the flight at the cosmonaut's training center in Moscow region.

It is planned that one of them will return to the earth aboard the Soyuz TM-10 together with Manakov and Strekalov after the end of the mission. The Japanese journalist will conduct scientific studies and carry out experiments together with the Soviet counterparts.

Along with the Japanese journalists, British and Austrian future cosmonauts are training at the centre.

TASS learnt at the Mission Control Centre that the seventh main space mission will last 132 days. It is planned during this time to carry out 250 experiments for various sectors of the national economy and to make at least two space walkouts.

One of the crew's main tasks is to grow super-pure crystals for the radioelectronic industry at the Kristal module.

French Cosmonauts Named for 1992 Space Flight

LD0308175990 Moscow TASS in English 1442 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kenykh]

[Text] Paris August 3 TASS—Michel Tognini and Jean-Pierre Haignere are the two French cosmonauts that have been selected for the final training in preparation for the 1992 third Soviet-French space flight codenamed Antares.

A news conference held at the headquarters of the French National Space Research Centre (CNES) was dedicated to introducing the two cosmonauts, one of whom will make the space flight together with a Soviet crew.

The biographies of the two cosmonauts have much in common. There is no need to introduce Michel Tognini to Soviet readers for he was the back-up pilot during the second Soviet-French space expedition, whereas Jean-Pierre Haignere will train for the space flight at the Star City for the first time.

The two candidates are test pilots, lieutenant colonels of the French Air Force. Since July 1986 both bear the title of "CNES cosmonaut."

They are almost age-mates, born in 1949 and 1948 respectively.

Haignere is now the head of the department of the CNES manned flights and actively participates in the implementation of the West European space plane project Hermes.

When introducing the two cosmonauts at the news conference, Daniel Sacotte, CNES deputy director-general, emphasised that the two candidates underwent a thorough check-up by both the french side and Soviet specialists.

In several weeks' time, the two will go to the Soviet Union for final training which will continue for 1.5-2 years.

The final choice will be made at the Star City. However, so far a certain preference is being given to Michel Tognini who knows everything well from the previous training, Sacotte said.

Half-Year Nuclear Safety Statistics Issued

904E0144A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by A. Rogozhin "The State Inspection for Nuclear Energy in Industry Reports;" and interview with A. Mazalov, chief of the USSR State Inspection for Nuclear Energy in Industry Main Administration]

[Text] **The editor has received from the USSR State Inspection for Nuclear Energy in Industry its latest summary report on the operation of nuclear electric power stations [AES] in the country and incidents at nuclear reactors. We offer it for the attention of the reader.**

During the first half of the year, 46 power reactors were operated at AES in the USSR along with 11 research reactors and 12 reactors on nuclear-powered ships, over which the USSR State Inspection for Nuclear Energy in Industry exercises supervision. No nuclear violations or serious technical violations were recorded. There was a total of 75 unscheduled shutdowns at AES for the following reasons: AES personnel, 23; planning and design organizations, 12; manufacturing enterprises, 19; other reasons, 21.

Compared with the first half of last year the number of unscheduled shutdowns increased by 15 percent. This was mainly the result of AES personnel error and plant defects in equipment.

Analysis of violations shows that the greatest number are occurring in power units employing the VVER-1000 reactors, and particularly with power units during the first and second years of their operation. It is precisely during this period that hidden defects are revealed in equipment and assembly and shortcomings in setting-up work and design decisions. The number of breakdowns of the same kind in series-produced turbogenerators from the "Elektrosila" Prodas (Leningrad city) is not decreasing. Two cases of irradiation of personnel were recorded with doses above the permitted levels, along with local radiation contamination of buildings and premises on AES territory. Specifically these were as follows:

On 27 February, while exhausted iridium-292 fuel sources were being moved to storage at the Kalininskaya AES and as a result of deliberate removal of the source from its container, two radiation monitors received radiation doses of eight rem and 10 rem respectively—the annual permissible dose is five rem.

On 13 June at the Kurskaya AES, during a check by the radiation monitoring service in one of the private garages, a radioactively contaminated rope was found, irradiating at levels dangerous to health. Investigations were conducted on all violations of radiation safety standards.

The State Inspection for Nuclear Energy in Industry has taken a number of steps to improve safety in the operation of power units. Eleven sets of directions have been issued to limit the load or halt operation of power units because of violations of safety requirements. It has been decided to restrict the power of first-generation RBMK reactors to 70 percent of nominal. From 11 June this went into effect at the Chernobyl, Kursk, and Leningrad AES.

The IZVESTIYA editorial office asked A. Mazalov, chief of the USSR State Inspection for Nuclear Energy in Industry Main Administration, to comment on the report.

[IZVESTIYA] Anatoliy Tarasovich, why have cases of movement of radioactively contaminated objects and materials from AES into the domestic sector been recorded up to now?

[Mazalov] All radioactively contaminated materials are collected in containers right there on the spot, graded according to the level of contamination, and sent to storage sites located on AES territory. On the way out of AES territory, personnel and transport are monitored for radiation at several points with automatic and manual equipment. And so cases in which radioactively contaminated objects are removed from AES territory are extremely rare....

[IZVESTIYA] But still possible?

[Mazalov] Yes, and they occur as the result either of deliberate violation of the rules by personnel or due to an inadequate number of sensitive instruments used for radiation monitoring. It also happens, alas, that there are breakdowns in discipline among the radiation monitoring and safety services.

[IZVESTIYA] By what are the organs of the committee guided when issuing instructions to shut down a power unit?

[Mazalov] There is a list of normative-technical documents containing the requirements for ensuring safety in nuclear power engineering, and we also take into account the specific features of particular stations. Thus, on 22 March, the No. Two unit at the Rovenskaya AES was shut down because of damage caused during a scheduled check of one of the diesel generators which is an element that ensures safety at the AES. The need to shut down the power unit arose because the time needed for the repair exceeded the time permissible. Another example: on 12 June the No. Two power unit at the Kolskaya AES was shut down because the condition of one of the fire-extinguishing systems was not in line with the technical requirements....

[IZVESTIYA] Can you comment on the committee's decision to lower the power of RBMK reactors? What is the purpose of this "preventive" decision?

[Mazalov] The committee's decision to reduce permissible power—to not more than 70 percent of nominal—was directly connected with technical specifications of the first-generation RBMK reactors. First, the design and installation of these power units took place in 1965-1975 when there were no national standards and safety rules for AES. These power units are in significant ways not in line with present standards and safety rules for AES. The main discrepancy is the lack of the last safety barrier on the power units—the containment system for products from destruction of the active zone during a major accident. Second, reconstruction that could resolve part of the problem has been started only on the No. One power unit at the Leningrad AES, and only in 1989.

The purpose of this action is quite specific, namely to reduce the possible radiation dose of personnel and the public in the event of accidents connected with major ruptures of pipelines carrying the coolant that cools the active part of the reactor. According to the scientific council at the Institute of Atomic Energy imeni I.V. Kurchatov, and the committee's scientific and technical center, reducing power to 70 percent could reduce the radiation dose by a factor of six to 10, and in that event no evacuation of the public would be necessary in the event of the above-mentioned low-probability accidents.

Military

Admiral Chernavin Interviewed on Soviet Navy Day

OW0308212490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2130 GMT 28 Jul 90

[Interview with Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin, deputy minister of defense and commander in chief of the Navy, by journalist V. Genrin; on the occasion of Soviet Navy Day; place and date not given; from the "Serving the Fatherland" program]

[Text] [Chernavin] I would like at the beginning of my conversation with you to congratulate all Soviet people on the occasion of our common holiday. I especially would like to congratulate and to thank those people who build ships for the navy, create the equipment we use, our outstanding scientists, our designers, our comrades of the sea; in general, all those who create the naval power of the state, who today contribute according to their capabilities to the naval defense of our fatherland.

[Genrin] Vladimir Nikolayevich, I have a very reasonable question to which probably many would like an answer, well, lets say first hand.

[Chernavin] Yes.

[Genrin] You are a deputy minister of defense and you are the commander in chief of the Navy. When, after all, will the Navy become professional?

[Chernavin] The question has a sort of dual interpretation. The first interpretation is again a sort of irresponsible, demagogic, high-pitched one: Give us a professional army. We ask these people: Why a professional army? They answer: Because they have this in the army in the United States, in Britain, and other places. Very well. However, this question also demands certain conditions to create a professional army. If today, let us say, one of our sailors receives less than 10 rubles, then a professional—and also you or I—probably would not conclude a contract on such terms to serve in the Navy. This means we would need additional appropriations authorized. However, is our country rich enough today to authorize us such appropriations?

There is a second tack, so to speak, in the consideration of this question. I would say it is more balanced, more calm, more realistic. I am also among those who adhere

to this approach. It is the fact that we are not obligated to do or imitate that which is done today in the United States or in Great Britain. Perhaps there are some other ways to raise the level of professionalism of our Army. In fact, there are such ways.

Therefore I consider that the Army cannot be made up exclusively by contract, not only on a volunteer basis but that there must be a combination of both, of a universal military obligation and contractual voluntary make-up.

Well, for example in the FRG they consider the officers to be professionals. We also consider officers professionals. There every kind of NCO, ensigns, petty officers as we say, is a professional. The extended serviceman in our military is a professional. Therefore, in our military who is not a professional? The answer is conscripts who are made up of those called up for active service according to the universal military obligation.

Thus in the FRG they are divided into two parts: Part of these young people sign a contract for long-term service and receive the corresponding compensation, the corresponding standard of living; part undergo short-term service by conscription. I think that we should have such a system, more or less. This is the way the question should be decided.

Today some of our submarines are manned at 85 percent strength by officers and petty-officers. Only 15 percent—I speak of many submarines—only 15 percent are conscripted sailors. Therefore, is this a professional or nonprofessional crew? It is professional. However, here I would delineate the question in a completely different fashion: according to the professionalism of our professionals. Does the professional training of our officers, petty-officers, and of our professionals correspond to the exacting standards which the most modern equipment, the harsh conditions of the sea, and our difficult service present? Unfortunately here I must say no, not nearly in every case. Therefore, when speaking of a professional army, first of all it would be more appropriate to speak of raising the professionalism of professionals and not merely to approach the question from the bookkeeper's point of view: How many are on contract and how many are not on contract?

[Genrin] The prestige of the profession is falling. What can be done here? What are you doing about this?

[Chernavin] The overall prestige of military service is falling and we in the Navy are a composite part. I would not say that the prestige of naval service today is falling sharply; ours is not falling. However that does not mean that with us matters stand, so to speak, in good shape and that we have no worries in that regard. We have the same negative aspects connected with housing and matters of social security of officers and their families and the availability of schools and kindergardens in distant garrisons where naval personnel are based. This demands special, large investments in these areas to bring living standards up to a level that corresponds to today's contemporary demands which people expect.

[Chernavin] Today we are not waiting for some kind of manna from heaven. If formerly we spent about 30 percent of all funds allocated to the navy on living quarters and social and cultural needs, today we have raised this allocation to 55 percent. We are simply in no position to allocate more.

What kind of numbers are we talking about here: 55 percent on housing? Well today we have people without apartments. However, are there no others in this situation in the country today, in Moscow, in Leningrad, in your television studio, in the radio industry? They are everywhere. However, we have some... [changes thought] in the first place, the amount of time we must wait for housing nearly everywhere, in all of our cities, because of the fact that we are building a lot, is less than in any other organizations in which people must wait 10 or 15 or 20 years for housing. I know such organizations; I know such cities.

Today you know, you can hear voices everywhere crying out: We do not have enough money for medicine today; we do not have enough for education. There is not enough money in the country for other things as well. The first thing that our not-too-clever advisors suggest is that we must take this money from the Armed Forces. Well, in this way you—by you I mean all of us—of course will putwe will put our servicemen in an increasingly difficult situation.

[Genrin] Tell me please, this military reform about which we know a lot—or rather we know little but about which we hear a lot—what kind of shape is it in today and how will it ultimately reflect on the Navy?

[Chernavin] If you are speaking about whether or not we are preparing this reform, or whether we are carrying it out, today it would be more accurate to say we are implementing it, realizing it. Apparently such a fundamental reform or such a profound reform began with the Ministry of Defense. I do not separate the Navy from the Ministry of Defense or the Army. We worked out a concept, a defense concept for building our Armed Forces in accordance with political decisions which were taken in our country.

No small influence was exerted on our military reform by the treaty which was, by the efforts of our political leadership and diplomats, including military officials, signed on the elimination of short- and intermediate-range missiles. This was also a breakthrough in those long-standing relations, when there was an arms race, competition one against another, and when we tightened our belts more and more. This happened not only on our side, but these difficulties were experienced by the Americans as well, and in spite of the fact that America is a very wealthy country. Therefore, it is necessary to consider that these were positive phenomena which lead to stabilization in the world. That is probably the most valuable aspect upon which no price can be set.

As for the other aspects, they are also a composite part of the reform. What makes up the other aspects? Well, one

of the aspects of this reform is: What kind of Armed Forces must there be? Today what I would call not a military but a political concept of defense sufficiency exists. How can this defense sufficiency be understood? In political circles such a term can be used and it will probably be correct. However, we military people can not be guided by such a term because we must have precise calculations; we must establish a correlation of the forces of the probable enemy and our own forces, qualitatively, quantitatively, and in other ways. We must completely work out definite criteria; according to these criteria we must answer the question of what is sufficient defense? For instance, is defense sufficient for us today, let us say in our Navy, if the U.S. Navy and the navies of the NATO countries are several times larger than the Soviet Navy? Now, is it sufficient or not? Therefore, we work out these criteria and we work out such approaches. We military people understand that if that Army which we maintain is more than our state can manage, this means we must reduce it. Now, as we approach defense sufficiency, as we speak of sufficient defense, we must first of all speak about sufficient judiciousness in our approach to this question because in this question it is possible to go to extremes.

[Genrin] Vladimir Nikolayevich, recently we all witnessed the proceedings of the 28th Congress of the CPSU. You were at the congress. You were a delegate of the congress.

[Chernavin] In my evaluation, the 28th congress was, well, a special congress in the life of our country and party. I had trouble choosing the word special to avoid the word historical because when we look into our literature all of our congresses were historical. However, the fact that this was a special congress is attested to by all the events which have occurred today in Europe, the world, and within our country, and which our country is living through. It was literally—that is not what it was called but that is what I would call it—an extraordinary congress. It needed to solve the main problems for the party, for the country, and to lead our country out of that dead-end situation—if I may—that crisis situation into which we have fallen.

This congress dealt with the most important problems. I do not want to recite the agenda of the congress; it was all published and is all well known. However, I would like to mention a list of those problems which I would like to accent. The congress affirmed the socialist choice of development for our country. Today there are many wishing to transfer us onto a capitalist basis, not considering unemployment or anything else, considering that this may be the only possible path for our further development. I am not among those people, and I consider it a great achievement of the congress. It confirmed the correctness of the socialist choice, of our path for further development.

[Genrin] You have given many of your years to submarines.

[Chernavin] Yes.

[Genrin] Well, it is not a secret that on submarines and among submariners there is an everyday expression that the political officer on a ship is a mere passenger. Tell me, please: Will the submarines be going out to sea with a political officer-passenger or without one?

[Chernavin] I believe that today in the fleet we need a deputy for political affairs. We spoke out unanimously in favor of this, all of us representatives. There were more than 200 of us delegates from military organizations, and we spoke out unanimously in favor of preserving that institution in our Armed Forces. I will say this: Today it is absolutely the wrong time to look at this question in a fundamentally different way and from the opposite perspective, considering what is happening today in our country, considering all those interethnic relations, and other issues. The Navy—our Armed Forces—is not some sort of organism which is distinct from all others. It is correct to say that it is a part of our society, a facet of our society.

Therefore, all the problems which today concern our Soviet people also equally concern our Soviet sailors. Those difficulties which our country is experiencing today, in definite areas, those difficulties in full measure affect us as well. Today our country, according to tradition, notes our mutual holiday—Navy Day. Soviet sailors have come to this holiday with definite successes but they have certain unsolved questions as well. In any case, today Soviet sailors are full of the desire to fulfill in the best manner possible those obligations for the naval defense of our country which are given to us by our people, our Constitution, and our government.

Baltic Republics

Republic Chiefs Discuss 'Union Common Market'

Meet in Estonia

LD0508152690 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 5 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Direct economic links between the republics—a working meeting on this question took place today in the capital of Estonia.

[Correspondent Kh. Lenk] The heads of government of the Baltic republics, representatives of the governments of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], Belorussia, Moldova, and also of the Moscow Soviet, the Leningrad Soviet, and the Leningrad Oblast Soviet, met in Tallinn. During the meeting and the preliminary consultations, the main directions and the setting-up of a system of direct interregional economic links were determined; in other words, a system of a Union common market. The creation in Estonia of the association of industrial enterprises under Union control, Integral, which is not under Estonian authority, was mentioned as an example of how the sovereign right of republics to economic integrity is still being ignored. Today an appeal to the USSR Council of Ministers was adopted proposing cancellation of the 2 June instruction creating the association.

The meeting's participants decided to hold their next meeting in Tallinn in September.

[Begin recording] [M. Myasnikovich, deputy chairman of the Belorussian Council of Ministers] Today, when we are talking about sovereignty, and about broadening lateral economic links, then any advancement is simply meaningless without these meetings. If we talk about regulation of the market economy, if we talk about privatization, if we talk about solving questions of enterprise independence, then we need to introduce this practice more boldly.

[Lenk] In your opinion, how does Moscow, that is the central authorities, view such a meeting, this practice, as you say?

[Myasnikovich] I think that it probably views this positively. [end recording]

Further on Meeting

LD0508203690 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] A meeting of ministers of the three Baltic states, the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—E. Savisaar, I. Godmanis, and Kazimiera Prunskiene—took place in Tallinn today. Representatives of the governments of Belorussia, Moldavia, the Russian Federation, and the deputies of Moscow and Leningrad city and oblast also participated in the meeting.

In the morning reports were given and debates were held on pressing economic issues. Following this, Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet, received session participants. A dinner was given in their honor.

According to information from correspondents of Estonian television, several documents were adopted at the meeting. Among the documents was a statement on the essence of state associations of the Integra type. The statement proposed that the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers of 2 July of this year should be cancelled and that in the future such attempts to perpetuate the diktat of departments, the all-Union dependence, and the all-Union property should not be made.

An appeal to all republics by the meeting's participants was adopted. A need for a meeting in the nearest future during which actions for consolidation of lateral economic relations could be coordinated was expressed in the appeal.

Hunt for Lithuanian Deserters Planned 4-5 Aug

Special Troops To Be Used

LD0308221990 Vilnius International Service in English 2130 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Lithuania's state official daily LIETUVAS AIDAS, without naming the official sources it had received the information from, announced that in the night from the 4th to the 5th August, hunting of Lithuanian youth Soviet Army deserters is being planned. The information says special Soviet Army troops located in Rupla village, Jonava region, will be used. In case they manage to destabilize situation, a state of emergency will be declared.

Search Denied

LD0408221790 Vilnius International Service in English 2130 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Konstantin Golubev, head of the Political Department of the Soviet Military Commissariat in Lithuania has categorically denied the widespread talks that a hunt for those Lithuanian youths who have deserted their military bases in the Soviet Army is being organised. Speaking to a reporter of a Lithuanian daily, the top-ranking Soviet military official in Lithuania said that the Commissariat had received no instructions on that issue.

The news of an intended rounding-up of Soviet Army soldiers tonight was reported yesterday by the Lithuanian state newspaper LIETUVAS AIDAS, while the Executive Council of the popular movement Sajudis adopted an appeal yesterday saying that if the leadership of the occupational Soviet Army stationed in Lithuania did not give up their intentions, the Council of the

Sajudis movement would call upon the population of Lithuania to hold peaceful but very resolute actions of protest.

Although Konstantin Golubev of the Soviet Military Commissariat in Lithuania denied any intended roundings-up of Soviet Army evaders in this country, there have been recorded separate cases of such activity by the Soviet Army. A few days ago a group of eight armed soldiers broke the door of a flat and abducted an army deserter in the Lithuanian town of Ukmerge. Witnesses saw him cruelly beaten up and bleeding while being dragged by his hair to the military car outside the house. There has been no more news as to his whereabouts now.

Lithuania Appeals to Army

LD0508203190 Vilnius Domestic Service in Russian 1920 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Today we would like to remind you that an appeal to the leadership of the Soviet Armed Forces was addressed by the Sajudis Seimas Council. The council demanded that all actions by the armed forces, the KGB, and Interior Ministry troops against young men of the Republic of Lithuania be stopped. If the military authorities do not issue an official statement to the effect that all actions against young men have been canceled, then the Seimas Council will call upon the people of Lithuania to stage a peaceful but resolute action of protest against military units stationed on the territory of Lithuania and against the military commissariats.

Prunskiene Meets, Talks With RSFSR Officials

Discusses Ties With Ryzhkov

AU0308151690 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, Aug 3 (AFP)—Lithuanian Premier Kazimiera Prunskiene met here Friday with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov for talks on future economic ties between the secessionist Baltic republic and Moscow, the semi-official INTERFAX news agency said. She also met earlier with Russian Federation Premier Ivan Silayev to prepare for a bilateral economic treaty between the two republics, TASS news agency said.

Mr. Silayev told TASS afterwards: "We have reached an agreement on all the key issues that interest our republics." "Members of both governments have been given a week to prepare a draft treaty," he said, adding that he and other Russian officials would travel to Lithuania on August 15 and 16 to sign the treaty, the first between the two Soviet republics since they proclaimed their sovereignty.

Lithuania, in addition, has proclaimed its independence, which Moscow has not recognized. Vilnius and Moscow are to open negotiations on the issue shortly.

INTERFAX said Mrs. Prunskiene had told Mr. Ryzhkov that members of a Lithuania delegation charged with negotiating an independence deal would travel soon to Moscow to sign a protocol on beginning the talks.

Vilnius has agreed to a 100-day moratorium on its independence declaration from the time negotiations with Moscow begin.

Prunskiene, Silayev Interviewed

LD0308184490 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] We have a video report on the talks between the delegations headed by Silayev, chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers, and Prunskiene, the Lithuanian prime minister:

[Chernyshova] Hello, I'm from the Vremya program. Can you tell us quickly about anything important, if only in preliminary form, which our viewers should know about?

[Prunskiene] Well, maybe the fact that we intend to maintain the ties which have developed, to improve them by drawing in third parties—meaning Western investors—from time to time, is important. We agreed that our experts would work on economic reform. This is very important, I think.

[Chernyshova] You mean the reform sponsored by the Union?

[Prunskiene] The Union reform is now turning into a reform sponsored by the Russian part of the Union. This is because the president has instructed the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation to treat Boris Yeltsin's program for economic reform as a basis, to work on it, to improve it, and to prepare a broad-based reform. If this reform contains worthwhile ideas which promise results, then of course the Republic of Lithuania has an interest in adopting them. On the other hand, we intend to offer the ideas which are maturing in our republic, to contribute them to this exchange of ideas.

[Chernyshova] Are you expecting there to be close cooperation?

[Prunskiene] Yes, we are expecting there to be close, equitable bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding. We were convinced yet again today that we find such mutual understanding in the Russian Federation.

[Chernyshova] Ivan Stepanovich, what did Prunskiene and you agree on? Is there anything which nobody else knows about yet?

[Silayev] Well, I simply familiarized Prunskiene with the document in which the president, Comrade Gorbachev, gave his instructions to organize a working group to draw up the concept and program for a transition to the

market, based on what I would describe as different principles. She was the first leader of a republican government to see this document. That is the news which I can tell you. Naturally, in view of these instructions, I asked her to delegate as quickly as possible her own representatives and experts on economic reform to take part in this group, as indicated in the president's instructions—if she is in agreement. Just like the other republics, which we will contact today and tomorrow, she agreed to contribute experts on economic reform to this working group.

Preparatory Meeting Held

LD0308214290 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene met with chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, Ivan Silayev, in Moscow today. Department heads and specialists of the economics ministries of both states, took part in the talks, that lasted nearly an hour and a half.

In a telephone conversation with an ELTA correspondent, Kazimiera Prunskiene noted, this was a preparatory meeting. Another meeting, during the course of which the signing of an economic cooperation agreement is expected, should take place in Vilnius around the middle of this month. A delegation, similar in makeup to our present delegation in Moscow, is expected to arrive for that purpose. The Lithuanian Republic was represented there today, by deputy minister of economics, Klemensas Seputis, deputy minister of material resources, Pranas Mazeika, deputy minister of trade, Vaclovas Zilinskas and deputy prime minister, Rimas Stankevicius. The Lithuanian government representative in Moscow, Egidijus Bickauskas, also participated in the talks.

Economic Protocol Signed

LD0308204490 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov met his Lithuanian counterpart, Mrs. Kazimiera Prunskiene, in Moscow.

Ryzhkov spoke in favor of early negotiations between Moscow and Vilnius.

Mrs. Prunskiene disclosed that the issue on the upcoming talks with the USSR will be discussed by the Lithuanian parliament at its special session opening next Tuesday [7 August].

In the meantime, at today's meeting in Moscow, the Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Ivan Silayev and the Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiere Prunskiene signed a protocol on the guidelines of economic cooperation between the two republics. The sides agreed to maintain the established economic ties and discussed a possible correction of prices.

Prunskiene, Yeltsin Discuss Cooperation

LD0308214590 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Kazimiera Prunskiene held a telephone conversation with Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Council Chairman Boris Yeltsin. Questions of economic, political, and humanitarian area cooperation, as well as problems concerning the approaching negotiations between the Lithuanian Republic and the Russian Federation, were discussed. [passage omitted]

Prunskiene on Upcoming Baltic Council Meeting

LD0408221890 Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Excerpt] A meeting of the members of the Baltic Council and the leaders of the Soviet republics will take place tomorrow in Tallinn to discuss urgent economic and political issues. The meeting will be attended by the Lithuanian prime minister, Kazimiera Prunskiene.

At an interview with the daily "RESPUBLIKA," Kazimiera Prunskiene noted that this meeting has been organized by the Estonian premier. Estonia is very concerned about a concern of the union enterprises concentrated in that country which is aspiring to become an alternative Council of Ministers and exert control over the economy. The Estonian premier wishes to consult members of the Baltic Council and the prime ministers of the union republics on how to dismantle this Union formation and how to continue the development of economic relations.

According to Kazimiere Prunskiene, some premiers wish to visit Lithuania after the meeting in Tallinn. [passage omitted]

Prunskiene Cited on Talks With Leaders

PM0408165390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Lithuania and Russia: Way to Cooperation"]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene has spoken positively of the results of her Moscow meeting with Ivan Silayev, head of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] government.

In an interview with INTERFAX correspondent Renat Abdullin, she said that in the course of this meeting they discussed the possibilities for cooperation between Lithuania and Russia and questions linked with the preparation of concrete agreements. The sides exchanged views on the plans for implementing economic reform in the two republics. K. Prunskiene pointed out that the RSFSR is now Lithuania's main partner—it accounts for 52 percent of the republic's foreign turnover. In mid-August I. Silayev is to come to Vilnius, and the sides will continue their talks there. K.

Prunskiene said that she had a telephone conversation today with Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. According to Prunskiene, it was agreed that she will meet B. Yeltsin face-to-face during her next visit to Moscow.

At the same time the Lithuanian government head pointed out that there is a great deal of uncertainty over the conclusion of an agreement with Russia. "First," she said, "Russia is not our partner as regards the resolution of the question of the status of the Soviet Army on Lithuanian territory, the resolution of the question of our borders. The picture as to how powers will be distributed between the Russian Federation and the USSR—i.e. the future 'Union treaty,' what rights Russia itself will have and what rights it will give the Union—has not become quite concrete. For instance, some uncertainty arose today when we were talking about the prospects for major deals between us within the framework of the fuel and energy complex. Who will in fact be Lithuania's partner when these kinds of agreements are signed, who specifically owns the oil? Russia said that it intends to own the oil itself. At the same time the Union government claims that it owns the main types of resources."

"Our meeting today with Yu. Luzhkov, chairman of the Moscow Gorispolkom [city soviet executive committee], and S. Stankevich, deputy chairman of the Moscow Soviet, confirms that there is a third specific, interested partner with whom agreement on mutual deliveries must be reached," K. Prunskiene said. "From our viewpoint, agreements must now be reached with everyone who has the power to dispose of resources. But we must at the same time display a differentiated approach—who will be our main partner, who will give a guarantee that the accords reached will be implemented. Because we may suddenly find ourselves in a very complex position in a few months' time if our partner loses the right to dispose of various resources. For that reason we are waiting for powers between Russia and the union to be concretized. We welcome the fact that USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, are now tending to be united in their standpoints."

During her conversation with N. Ryzhkov, Soviet Government head, K. Prunskiene says that she stressed that Lithuania is not attempting to somehow ignore the Union government by establishing contacts with the RSFSR. She said once again that Lithuania has no intention of signing the new Union treaty. The Lithuanian premier said that the question of the upcoming talks with the USSR was broached during her talks with N. Ryzhkov. N. Ryzhkov expressed the readiness of the delegation which he heads to begin talks sooner. She says that the Lithuanian side is not preparing for dialogue with the Soviet leadership as quickly as the republic's government would like.

K. Prunskiene said the following in response to the INTERFAX correspondent's question regarding her attitude to the appeal from 20 former founders of Sajudis published in Lithuania's RESPUBLIKA, in which they criticized the parliament's work: "The appeal says that, possibly because of its youthfulness, the parliament has assumed too much power. This sometimes hampers the government's work. The beginning of talks with the USSR is also being dragged out for incomprehensible reasons. I myself have made comments of this kind on several occasions in parliament regarding the Supreme Soviet. I think that criticism can sometimes have a healthy effect on the parliament's subsequent work."

Interior Official Views Travel Restrictions

LD0308152690 Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] [Announcer] Now Vytautas Mikulenas reports about one, if one may say so, hot spot in the republic, the border checkpoint in Lazdijai.

[Begin Mikulenas recording] Yesterday the following message was received from Moscow. I am going to read it and then add something:

The USSR Government has decided to extend permission to Soviet citizens to pass through the state border of the USSR with the Republic of Poland, the Hungarian Republic, and also with the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic with USSR passports with previously issued notifications only up to 10 August of this year. We inform all citizens that permits to pass through the USSR state border with the abovementioned countries with USSR passports with notifications will cease at 2400 hours on 10 August 1990.

I wish to add that the Visa and Registration Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania announces that at present there are virtually no passports—there is a shortage of forms for travel abroad. Thus the republic's citizens who will not be able to travel before 10 August 1990 should wait for a special instruction. This limitation does not apply to organized tourist trips, to travel for meetings with spouses, close relatives, trips connected with serious illnesses or death of relations, or to exceptional trips.

On this occasion a letter signed by the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Lithuania, Kazimiera Prunskiene, was sent on 2 August to the chairman of the USSR Council of Minsters, Ryzhkov, asking him not to introduce limitations at the border crossing on the territory of the Republic passing through this checkpoint. Thus we will wait and see. [end recording]

[Announcer] This was Vytautas Mikulenas, official at the Lithuanian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Parliament Finishing 'Intensive' Working Week

LD0308114890 Moscow TASS in English 1101 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga August 3 TASS—The last, and probably, the most intensive working week of the Latvian parliament, is coming to an end. Ahead is a month-long vacation. However, when deputies are on vacation, law-making will be taken up by their electors.

Quite a few drafts, passed in the first reading, have been submitted for a nation-wide discussion. Their number and the forthcoming publication caused a row with the Greens, who called for a more economical use of paper.

The draft law on enterpreneurship, dubbed by deputies as "the most market-oriented law ever," is one of the bills up for discussion.

The government has come up with a programme to privatise 25-30 per cent of he Latvian economy (land and other natural resources not included) within the next four or five years.

Property will be sold to private individuals or collectives, including foreign ones, or handed over to local governing bodies and public and religious organisations.

The Latvian parliament also passed the first reading of a bill on the press and other news organisations. The bill is similar to the Soviet one, but is more compact, authors believe.

It bans the revelation of commercial secrets and makes it illegal to prohibit publications on political grounds.

The parliament will resume the debate on bills after the recess, following the nation-wide discussion.

Godmanis Speaks at Supreme Council Session

LD0308225490 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 0959 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Address by Latvian Council of Ministers Chairman Ivars Godmanis at a Supreme Council session held in Riga—live]

[Excerpts] In the government program, questions on relations with the army were not reflected. This is a very serious problem, which is to be viewed in the context of Latvia's independence as a whole. [passage omitted]

What must be achieved is that in the inter-state treaty with the Soviet Union, the question of defense and national security will find a settlement corresponding to the interests of the Republic of Latvia. The government will endeavor to achieve restriction of Army contingent (?food supply). We agree that calling up Latvia's young men into the USSR armed forces must be discontinued, and this contingent must be used in the republic's interests, both (?in) the border guards, Interior Ministry troops, customs officials, and others. For the time being, within the bounds of our possibilities, there is only the use of alternative service. I can inform the deputies that from this year's spring call-up, more than one third of the youths—about 2,300 young men—have remained in the republic performing alternative service. They have been sent to the appropriate rayon and city executive committees to be assigned work. [passage omitted]

Lastly, concerning what the government is considering and has taken into consideration in working out and realizing this program. The government has active contacts at several levels with Hungarian and Polish government institutions. Information exchange is taking place continuously on this question. The government has studied the program for Hungary prepared by world economists, in which it is expounded in what manner to change to a market economy. Specifically, during my visit to the United States, and during Foreign Minister Jurkans visit to the United States, we achieved an agreement that one of the most influential specialist organizations, the Hudson Institute, who's representatives worked out the transition program for Hungary to change to market relations, have undertaken to assist us too, to make more exact, I underline, to make more exact, perhaps to try to supplement, but not to work out in our place, this program.

Allow me, esteemed deputies, to read to you in conclusion to my speech, a resolution of the Council of Ministers which we adopted yesterday at the Council of Ministers' session: The resolution of the Council of Ministers on the proposals and remarks by deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia in discussing the government program. In discussing the government program at the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, the deputies expressed proposals on the need to give a number of key questions a more detailed exposition, a plan of action, and a date for its implementation. With the aim of securing a purposeful and timely realization of the government program, and taking into consideration the remarks and suggestions expressed at the examination of the government program by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia resolves: First, to take into consideration that the government administration has examined in detail the notes and suggestions put forward by deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia when discussing the program, and has included the more significant of them into the new wording of the program, the less significant notes and suggestions to be examined by the ministries and departments of the Republic of Latvia and the local government institutions, and correspondingly to take into account, when forming their operational and long-term plans of action and program.

Second, to consider as necessary for a successful realization of the most significant key tasks of the government program, for the ministries to work out appropriate plans of action, including for the tasks which are included in the supplement which has been handed to you; to set a task for the ministries, departments and

local government executive institutions to submit by 15 August this year to the Council of Ministers a list of tasks for whose timely, (?high quality) fulfillment such plans of action will be drawn up, envisaging the completion of their drawing up by 15 September. Copies of the plan to action to be submitted to the Council of Ministers and the Statistics Committee.

Third, the government administration will work out, and will send by 8 August of this year to the ministries, departments, and local government institutions a sample of a uniform draft of the plan of action. [passage omitted]

No Armed Militarized Groups in Estonia

LD0408174990 Moscow TASS in English 1718 GMT 4 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tallinn August 4 TASS—"According to our information, there are no armed militarised groups in Estonia now," Verro Rikas, Estonian deputy interior minister, told TASS.

He said that all law-enforcement officers were informed by the ministry of the decree issued by the Soviet president on banning the creation of armed groups, not envisaged by the Soviet legislation, and on confiscating illegally kept weapons. The minister approved a plan of measures, including preventive ones, which envisage, among other things, the safe storage of weapons and the ruling out of a possibility of stealing them.

The everyday work, carried out by the ministry, shows that there are people in the republic, who illegally keep fire arms, including rifles. Often it is the weapons, left after the Second World War. For instance, a Japanese rifle and cartridges for it, as well as a flare pistol were confiscated recently from a chairman of a cooperative. Several dozen rifles were confiscated from the population during the first seven months of the current year.

According to Verro Rikas, a plan of measures to put into practice the presidential decree includes a proposal to the government to suspend for some time the selling of hunting weapons through shops. Interior Ministry officers are now checking the safety of their storage. The ministry is also planning to appeal to the population through the mass media to hand in the illegally kept weapons voluntarily, the deputy minister said.

The newspapers, brought out in the republic in the Estonian language, did not publish the presidential decree, which creates some difficulties with its putting into practice.

Estonian Demand for 'Social Protection'

LD0208182790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] A TASS correspondent reports from Talinn: Deputies have referred to the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium a proposal to include the question of the government's work in implementing socioeconomic policy within the agenda of the extraordinary session of the repubican Supreme Soviet, and have demanded that extra measures be adopted to ensure the social protection of the inhabitants of Estonia. Clearly, by involving itself in high politics, the government is ignoring the needs of the people, says a statement by a group of Estonian Supreme Soviet deputies, circulated today.

Frenzied demand for products and consumer goods, fuel, building materials, economic and many other goods is increasing in the republic. A disastrous situation has developed over medical supplies; there are no basic medicinal preparations. The draft law on income tax on private individuals is leading to a lack of confidence among the people. Alarm over the transition to market relations is growing. The majority of the inhabitants of the republic have one commodity—manpower, and the working people are worried that, according to the draft which is being worked out, unemployment benefits will amount to only 35 rubles.

Many people believe that a wholesale attack has begun on the living standards of the working people, and people's expectations with regard to social protection may drag on for years.

RSFSR

Tatar Plenum Adopts Sovereignty Resolution

LD0308183690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Today the Tatar Republican Committee CPSU Plenum today discussed the results of the 28th party congress and the tasks of communists. A resolution was also adopted that backs the idea of the state sovereignty of the Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. The resolution was adopted in connection with the session of the Republican Supreme Soviet, which is to be held this August and to which this issue will be submitted for discussion.

Azerbaijanis Flee After Paratroopers Rampage

PM0408201990 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 90 p 1

[N. Savelyev report: "On Rampage in Krasnoyarsk"]

[Text] The Krasnoyarsk City Militia Department has switched to a more intensive mode of operation. All personnel have been mobilized, and leave has been canceled. The reason is the troubled situation in this city of 1 million inhabitants. It all began on Airborne

Landing Troops Day. After wandering aimlessly around the Central Culture and Recreation Park, paratroopers went on to the collective farm market. Outraged at the fantastic prices being charged by traders from the Transcaucasus, they overturned virtually all the stalls. A rumor that Azerbaijanis had beaten up one of their friends in the Solnechnyy neighborhood spread like wildfire among them. Seizing a bus, they rushed over there. They attempted to storm a hostel where Azerbaijanis live but were stopped by militia and special-purpose militia units. The next morning the troublemakers' emissaries were heading for the railroad station. But soon 500 or so workers from the "Krastyazhmash" association approached the hostel. Gradually their numbers increased to 800-900. Essentially their demand was for the eviction of Azerbaijanis speculating in vodka in this neighborhood.

In the evening, several dozen Azerbaijanis took off for Baku under militia protection. Another special flight was organized on 4 August.

RSFSR's Khasbulatov on Draft Union Treaty

LD0308213290 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Consultations between working groups to draft a Union treaty began today in the Kremlin's Chamber of Facets. The Russian Federation group is headed by Khasbulatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socalist Republic Supreme Soviet. Tarazevich, chairman of the Nationalities Policy Commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities heads the Union working group. Ruslan Ibramovich Khasbulatov gave a short interview for our program.

[Begin recording] [Khasbulatov] I am pleased. Why am I pleased? Because we put forward a whole series of very serious, radical, and in-depth reforms. I was longing to see what response there would be. You know, the response has been calm and amicable. There has been a readiness for discussion. I have noticed that it is a good thing that in general our reaction has not been bad. We treat one another with respect, but a number of actions by certain bodies are causing us concern for the consistency of such an approach. Overall, you know, I am optimistically inclined, and I hope that we will retain mutual understanding on the need for the most profound and radical transformation of our nation, along with the Union republics, our, and I repeat, main partners in the talks on a new Union treaty. [end recording]

Luzhkov, Prunskiene Hold Cooperation Talks

LD0308194190 Moscow TASS in English 1932 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—Chairman of the Moscow City Executive Committee Yuriy Luzhkov and Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene showed interest in improving business cooperation between Moscow and Lithuania at a meeting in the Moscow town hall today.

The meeting was attended by Moscow deputy mayor Sergey Stankevich.

They discussed how to raise traditional economic and cultural cooperation to the level of direct contacts. The meeting was preceded by contacts between specialists, business executives, as a result of which the sides have compiled several draft agreements.

The meeting centred on the development of commodity-monetary relations, exchange of experience in implementing privatisation programmes, including housing, trade and other spheres, that is in creating economic structures conducive to transition to market relations.

The sides achieved an understanding to continue negotiations and sign agreements in the near future.

Treaty Expected in 'Near Future'

PM0508142990 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 5 Aug 90 p 1

[A. Kozhakhmetova report: "Politics Not Discussed"]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister K. Prunskiene was in Moscow last Friday. The objective of her visit was to have talks with the chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of the USSR, N.I. Ryzhkov, and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], I.S. Silayev. In the evening, she was received at the Moscow City Soviet by Deputy Chairman S.B. Stankevich and Ispolkom Executive Committee Chairman Yu.M. Luzhkov.

In Luzhkov's words, the Moscow Soviet leadership is interested in direct mutually advantageous contacts with Lithuania. This is also beneficial for the partners because the city's enterprises produce more output than the Baltic republic. Moscow and Lithuania can not only exchange goods and raw materials but also cooperation in the spheres of financial policy and culture and share experience of the transition to new forms of economic management.

In particular, an active process of denationalizing property is already in progress in Lithuania, and it would be useful for Muscovites to know about its successes and drawbacks since in September-October this year the Moscow program for privatizing housing, industry, and trade begins to be implemented. "We will have an employment office, a commodity exchange, and the Moscow Commercial Bank in the city," the Moscow Gorispolkom [City Soviet Executive Committee] chairman said. "This offers scope for cooperation. We are not opening our doors to everyone, but we say to you, Lithuania: Let's work together."

Commenting at the request of journalists on the results of her meetings at Union and republic levels, K. Prunskiene noted the joint intention with I.S. Silayev to conclude an economic cooperation treaty between Russia and Lithuania in the very near future. Discussion on specific points of a draft treaty will begin in a few days—in Vilnius this time rather than Moscow. As yet work is still being done by experts from both side. In addition, Lithuanian representatives have accepted an invitation to participate in elaborating a mechanism for making the transition to a market economy in the RSFSR.

At the USSR Council of Ministers, according to K. Prunskiene, there was a conversation about the possibility of concluding direct contracts between Lithuanian and Union industrial enterprises.

As for Lithuania's participation in a renewed federation, the prime minister confined herself to the sentence: "We will conclude direct treaties only with partners in a Union market."

RSFSR Minister on Economic Transition Program

LD0508164390 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 5 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] With us in the studio is Boris Grigoryevich Fedorov, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] minister of finance and member of the working group for drawing up a concept of a Union program for transition to market economy. Boris Grigoryevich, first of all, what are the basic principles? And could you comment on the way the group is made up?

[Fedorov] I'll start with the makeup of the group. This is perhaps the first time that a group has been set up where both well-known economists and many unknown, very young ones—I am not the youngest in the group—are represented. And the main thing is that these people are not constrained by any dogmas. There are a large number of internationalists—international experience will be made use of, that is.

Regarding the general principles of the program's construction, first and foremost we have no dogmas, we are not constrained by anything, we want to get away from what existed before, from the conservative, inert system, yet without falling into extremes, without being pushed into some sort of experiments. What we want, that is, is to create a normal market economy—that is the main principle, and without any dogmas of any sort, and in a situation rid of ideology, above all.

[Announcer] The work stated very recently, of course, but I should nevertheless like to ask you whether this concept will differ from what we heard at the end of May in the Union government report?

[Fedorov] It will, I think, of course differ. It will of course make use of government material, as well as the material worked up for the Russian program, and programs which no one perhaps knows about yet. And the main thing is that it will make a pretty specific, pretty constructive, and chiefly comprehensive examination of all the issues; that is, it will not pick out any random measures, but advance toward a market economy along the whole of a broad front, making use of all possible tools. The main thing is that the various elements of this program will be synchronized, and the approach will be a sober one without any experiments, as I have already said.

[Announcer] I know that all television viewers are interested above all in whether there will be any increase in retail prices in this program.

[Fedorov] I do not think that any sort of administrative increase in retail or wholesale prices can be a principle of any normal program. If we are going to touch on the issue of—and we shall, of course—price formation, this will be a comprehensive approach, an approach toward liberalization of prices, but at the same time toward creating a mechanism to protect the population, so that no measure such as raising prices is singled out at random. This does not solve anything, unless other issues are solved too. We are therefore opposed to any purely administrative one-off measures pulled out of the package.

[Announcer] Boris Grigoryevich, a decision has been adopted on the development of retail trade for foreign currency. What do you think of this?

[Fedorov] I regard it like this: The fundamental, central aspect of our program should be how to make the ruble a currency. We must therefore start by ensuring that retail trade develops normally, using the ruble, so that the ruble will become the sole legal means of payment in our country, as in other countries. I therefore take a negative view of a system whereby attempts are made to impose the dollar on us as a domestic means of payment, because that devalues the ruble, that devalues the currency which 99 percent of our population use.

[Announcer] And so you are to present the new draft by 1 September, to the USSR president and to the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. Will it be published in the press?

[Fedorov] Unless the draft is published I do not think there can be any normal dialogue at all levels, there can be no normal progress to a market economy. Everyone should know what we are drawing up, we should give the people a precise prospect of specific measures to show where we are heading. Without that, I think, the people will quite simply have no trust in us.

[Announcer] Thank you for the interview.

[Fedorov] Thank You.

Finance Minister, Yeltsin Aide Interviewed

PM0208131490

[Editorial report] London BBC Television Network in English at 2130 GMT on 1 August carries interviews with Viktor Belkin, one of Boris Yeltsin's economic advisers, in Russian with English subtitles; and with Boris Federov, finance minister of the Russian Republic, in English, by correspondent Brian Hanrahan in Moscow, during a report on Boris Yeltsin's "500-Day Plan."

Belkin, who started work under Stalin, tells Hanrahan: "We lack professional economists. The whole question is whether he'll be able to find these professionals or not. The tragedy is that at the end of the twenties Stalin murdered all the economists who favored a free-market system."

Hanrahan suggests that in order to find advisers who can keep up with Yeltsin's "radical ideas, he's had to skip a generation and look for those untainted by the past." Fedorov says: "There are people who have never gone to the London business school, but they can manage in enterprise and they can make millions here quite easily. So let them do it. Let them pay taxes, of course, to the Ministry of Finance. Well, but we should give the opportunity—and to give the opportunity in a civilized way: not just giving way to anarchy in the whole country but creating at the same time the regulatory framework where the interests of the society in general will be protected.

Hanrahan says Yeltsin's plan is a "dangerous gamble in a country with little experience of economic forces." Federov replies: "That's the task for the government—to make the cushions for protecting people. And that's why I say I am not a proponent of this shock therapy—well, because in this society it's quite usual, making for instance a decision without know...calculating really the consequences."

Reportage on Anti-Russian Feeling in Tuva

Bad Feeling Described

LD0308155990

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1130 GMT on 3 August, in its "Television News Service" program, carries a two-minute report introducd by Tatyana Mitkova on refugees leaving Tuva Autonomous Republic.

Mitkova says: "The situation in Tuva, the autonomous republic in the south of Siberia which became part of the USSR in 1944, has become sharply exacerbated. Prior to this, Tuva was an independent people's republic. Today it has a population of some 300,000. Russians, who make up the minority, are leaving Tuva. Those remaining behind feel besieged; going to work in groups accompanied by an escort. Special sub-units of the Interior Ministry have been dispatched to Tuva.

"The first refugees from the autonomous republic appeared in the south of Krasnoyarsk Kray back in the spring of this year. It took our correspondent quite a bit of effort to get Tuva women talking. They were afraid that after appearing on television they might become a target for revenge."

Correspondent S. Sipkin then chats to a young Tuva woman in front of her house, holding her small daughter, presumably somewhere in the south of Krasnoyarsk Kray. Her Russian husband is standing next to her, also holding a child. She says, in poor Russian, that attempts were made to stop them from leaving. She vows that they won't return to Tuva even if things return to normal there, as young people's fierce anti-Russian sentiments will not change: She says that whenever she and her little daughter went to the shops, young people would say: "She's been fathered by a Russian."

Another Tuva woman speaking excellent Russian is interviewed with her husband sitting next to her. She says that all this started in May. Early in May, people weren't even intending to go anywhere. They weren't doing anything. They weren't selling their dachas or houses. Flights started. Carnage started. You couldn't go out onto the streets, she says. Girls were disppearing. By the way, small children were disappearing too. All sorts of crime has been occurring in the rayons and in Kyzyl, with a great proportion taking place in Kyzyl. They are now looking for a job and for a place to live in Rybakovskiy Rayon, she concludes.

Silayev on Interethic Problems

LD0408053190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Silayev, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Council of Minsters met leaders of the Tuva Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic today. A group of RSFSR people's deputies took part in the meeting. Under discussion was the autonomous republic's serious shortcomings in its socioeconomic development. Special attention was paid to the deterioration in interethnic relations and to the complex crime-producing situation in Tuva. A decision was adopted to prepare as soon as possible a program to overcome the development shortcomings in the republic. The Tuva Council of Minsters was asked to revitalize the work of its law enforcement bodies. Silayev, RSFSR Council of Ministers chairman, accepted an invitation of the republic's government to visit in the very near future to resolve a number of issues on the spot.

Moscow Paper Reports

PM0408140190 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 4 Aug 90 p 3

[TASS correspondent V. Danilenko report: "Tuva Situation Deteriorates"]

[Text] Kyzyl-Krasnoyarsk—There has been an incident in Kyzyl. An antitank mine placed against the porch of a

hostel temporarily housing special purpose militia detachment personnel failed to go off: It turned out to be a dummy. But this provocation confirmed just how tense the situation in the Tuva ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] is. Relations between the indigenous and Russian-speaking populations here have deteriorated sharply.

Over the past six months more than 3,000 people have left the republic. The outflow is not diminishing. A local shipping agency has received applications several months in advance for containers to ship citizens' property. However, in the opinion of G. Shirshin, first secretary of Tuva CPSU Obkom [Oblast Party Committee], there is no refugee problem in the republic: People are leaving for family reasons.

But, contrary to this assertion, alarming facts show that many of Tuva's industrial enterprises are already on the point of shutting down.

The situation is such that we were forced to bus miners to work accompanied by a special purpose militia detachment, A. Menshikov, director of the "Tuvakobalt" Combine said. After the guards were removed, people started running away. For instance, I signed the statement dismissing the last shop chief. And, barring a miracle, production will stop in September. Similar cases are also occurring in rural areas, where the situation is even more tense. Apartment blocks and cars have been burned out or have had rocks thrown at them, and there have been robberies involving firearms and other weapons.... The Ministry of Internal Affairs operational summaries are full of such cases. In most cases it is Russians who are the targets of attacks. Leading workers in the republic and the alarmed population have been making ambiguous assessments of these events.

"The government has the situation under control," Sh. Kullar, administrator of affairs with the republic's Council of Ministers, believes. "The ill-considered actions of certain individuals do not reflect the opinions of the entire Tuvinian people."

However, people's alarm is understandable. Nobody can guarantee that the Russian-speaking population is safe in Sayany. It would only take the smallest spark to set off a conflagration of interethnic strife.

The pogroms in the district started with a fight at a dance in a village located near the mining settlement of Khovu-Aksy. Enterprises came to a halt for several days. Mass bloodshed was only avoided with the help of additional militia detachments.

A group of unemployed Tuvinians beat up workers at a road construction sector. Equipment and temporary housing was smashed. In Kyzyl people attended an emergency conference of labor collective representatives. They expressed discontent with the ineffective measures taken by staffers at the CPSU obkom and the republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs. It was stated that if the situation is not normalized within the next month, transport and power workers would call a political strike.

Law-enforcement organ staffers have arrived here from Kemerovo, Krasnoyarsk, Ulan-Ude, Irkutsk, Chita, and Moscow, and a special purpose militia detachment has been sent here. As a result of these measures the situation has stabilized somewhat. The streets of the cities and villages have become calmer.

However, the republic's KGB has received warnings about the illegal dissemination of leaflets with the following threats: "Russians: Beat It Out of Sayany!" and "Tuva for the Tuvinians!" Many families are receiving notes giving specific deadlines for them to leave. There have been rumors that once the special purpose militia detachment subunits are withdrawn there will be a bloodbath.

The situation has recently been getting more tense in the regions of Krasnoyarsk Kray bordering on Tuva. Hundreds of families have been forced to take up residence in vans and run-down huts. Without the official status of refugees they cannot count on any help from the state as yet. People are desperate.

Silayev Discusses Tensions

LD0408085890 Moscow TASS in English 0708 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 4 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev has met with leaders of the Tuva Autonomous Republic to discuss the latter's serious social and economic problems.

The meeting, also attended by a group of Russian MP's, paid special attention to escalating tension in interethnic relations and the rising crime rate in Tuva.

Silayev and the Tuvinian leaders decided to draw up an early programme for overcoming the republic's social backwardness.

Silayev accepted an invitation from the Tuvinian leaders to visit their republic soon to settle various questions there on the spot.

Silayev Chairs Council of Ministers Session

PM0308100790 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Jul 90 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the RSFSR Council of Ministers"]

[Text] Special attention was devoted to questions of harvesting in various regions at the latest session of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Council of Ministers Presidium. It was noted that this year five to seven centners more grain crops per hectare are being harvested than last year in many krays and rayons on the whole, and there are grounds to suggest that the current harvest might be a record one in volume terms. However, information from many places provides

evidence that serious difficulties are arising in storing the harvested grain—there is a shortage of fuel, and a number of cities including Moscow have allocated less motor transport compared with previous years to the countryside for ensuring a normal harvesting rhythm.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers approved measures on the additional provision of necessary resources and essential equipment to harvesting areas.

Proposals on the structure and main directions of the work of the RSFSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply for Republic and Regional Programs were discussed at the session. Speaking on the subject in question, Committee Chairman V.K. Vozhagov stressed that, in conditions of transition to a market economy, the main task is not to redistribute resources, but to help provide them in the transition from a supply to a middleman function. It was noted that this work can be accomplished only provided that a powerful information and scientific base is set up, which will enable the task to be resolved expeditiously.

N.G. Malyshev, chairman of the RSFSR State Committee for Scientific and Higher Education Affairs and deputy chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, briefed participants in the session about the committee's activities. He focused attention on the need for higher education establishments located on the republic's territory to be consistently put under the committee's control, and dwelled in detail on the task of practically integrating Russian science with education. It was also noted that, beginning in 1991, it will be important to considerably increase appropriations for the needs of higher education and research, targeting the latter chiefly on resolving the most pressing questions of the republic's socioeconomic life. A significant part should also be played by the creation of a Russian Academy of Sciences, tasked with making maximum use of the enormous intellectual potential at Russia's disposal.

The Presidium session examined the question of the main tasks facing the RSFSR Ministry of Industry. Delivering his report, Minister V.I. Kisin revealed the organizational concept of its work, highlighting the principle that the ministry will not engage in daily monitoring of the activities of various industrial enterprises or associations, but will first and foremost start assisting them to establish the necessary horizontal ties and to facilitate retooling and the introduction of modern technology.

The RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium also considered other questions of the republic's socioeconomic and spiritual life.

RSFSR Council of Ministers Chairman I.S. Silayev chaired the session.

Silayev on 4 Aug Council of Ministers Session

LD0408194990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Video report from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Council of Ministers by correspondent N. Chernyshova, including recorded interview with Ivan Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The first discussion of the program—the health of the nation—has taken place in the Presidium of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

[Chernyshova] Comrade Silayev, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, changed the course of the discussion. He proposed an absolutely new draft decision and that the discussion of the main issue be postponed for two months. [Video shows Chernyshova speaking to Silayev]

[Chernyshova] Is this the first occasion in which the discussion of a program has ceased and has been repealed?

[Silayev] Yes, this is the first occasion, but I consider it to be logical, for the government is just beginning to work. This is a profoundly neglected issue which demands both thorough analysis and the elaboration of a program. I consider that, in the outline that Comrade Shushalin proposed, councils, groups of experts, will play the greatest role, to which major specialists will be attracted from the scientific sphere and from the sphere of all possible kinds of social movements—that flexible kind of structure that truly reflects the demands of the time.

Yeltsin Chairs RSFSR Presidium Meeting 6 Aug

LD0608103690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium met today. It examined the question of convening the second session of the republic's Supreme Soviet and decided to convene it on 3 September. A report was heard on the preparation of draft documents concerning changes to the administrative and territorial systems of certain oblasts of the RSFSR. Comrade Yeltsin chaired the session.

Ryzhkov Heads Russian Language, Literature Group

LD0608093390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] Participants in the seventh congress of the international association of teachers of Russian language and literature, which will open in Moscow in the middle of the week, are arriving in the Soviet Union. These are teachers in higher education establishments and schools, linguists, literature specialists as well as psychologists,

translators, and publishing staff. The main topic proposed for discussion is the Russian language and literature in the relations among the peoples of the world. The Soviet organizing committee for the congress is headed by Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov.

Interview Examines Support for Kalugin

LD0508114290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0715 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Interview with (Viktor Pimenovich Mironov), KHRONIKA editor-in-chief, people's deputy of the Moscow Soviet and Russian Federation, and former Procuracy investigator, by unidentified correspondent—live or recorded in studio; from the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the "Panorama" studio is (Viktor Pimenovich Mironov), our guest, people's deputy of the Moscow Soviet and the Russian Federation, journalist, and a former Procuracy investigator.

[(Mironov)] [passage omitted]

I know that on Monday, tomorrow, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, is leaving for a lengthy tour. He will visit more than 12 towns: Vorkuta, Magadan, Khabarovsk, the Far East....

[Correspondent] Yes, we have reported it. It will start with Sverdlovsk... [corrects himself] with Vorkuta.

[(Moronov)] Yes, with Vorkuta. That's tomorrow. (?He is on tour).

I know that very many deputies, in particular, Tatyana Ivanovna Koryagina and Aleksandr Vladimirovich Politkovskiy have left—some have left, some are planning to leave now—to aid and support a candidate people's deputy of the USSR and esteemed general from the Committee of State Security.

[Correspondent] Former.

[(Mironov)] Yes, former.

[Correspondent] Former.

[(Mironov)] Oleg Daniilevich Kalugin. Well, former. You know, it is this fact which has made me indignant. A man has earned everything, every rank, every decoration. Anyway, all this smacks of, well, the manner of a Near East dictator. They only take from a man... [changes thought] How can you strip a peasant of his awards, an Order of Lenin, won for active, productive, successful harvest work? How can you strip him (?of them).

[Correspondent] Yes. And are you also leaving this deputies' brigade, in the group?

[(Mironov)] Yes. I am now finishing off my affairs concerning the registration of the newspaper and consider it my duty and obligation to help Oleg Daniilevich Kalugin.

[Correspondent] But what has given rise to this urge?

[(Mironov)] You know, here, it seems to me that the roots go a little deeper. All...

[Correspondent, interrupting] I mean, what has given rise to the deputies' urge to help a candidate in an electoral campaign?

[(Mironov)] You know, he is the first man of conscience from this punitive system who has realized that penitence before the people is necessary. (?Moving over), it is necessary to tell the people the truth in these bodies. And it seems to me that here the spur for the whole country was provided by the speech at the first Congress of USSR People's Deputies by Yuriy Petrovich Vlasov, USSR people's deputy, when he...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Yes, everyone remembers this. Let us not be sidetracked. Are there facts which are hindering him from conducting an electoral campaign? What will your support consist of?

[(Mironov)] You know, a newspaper gets feedback. So, our newspaper, KHRONIKA, is constantly receiving telephone calls, letters, and telegrams to the effect that Oleg Daniilovich Kalugin's electoral campaign is being hindered. The elections are on the 19th. In SOVETSKAYA KUBAN, a letter with a unscrupulous question was published and the answer adduced from a speech by Kryuchkov, chairman of the Committe of State Security, at the Russian congress of communists. Then it was reported that at the Sedin factory the administration banned a meeting with Oleg Daniilovich Kalugin. Osipov, the director of the Promavtomatika [industrial automation], banned a meeting with Oleg Daniilovich Kalugin by direct order. At the Kuban Mechanical works, Babichev, the director—people are reporting directly—banned a meeting of the electorate with Oleg Daniilovich Kalugin.

A situation familiar to Muscovites is developing in which, in the process of an electoral campaign, influential telephone calls are being made. The rights of candidate deputies are being infringed. They are being put in unequal positions. Inter alia, the same thing happened to me, when the Procuracy began to harrass me during the very period of the electoral campaign. But I think that the election of Oelg Daniilovich Kalugin—I dare to hope that it will in fact be him that will be elected—will be a worthy replacement in the body of deputies, and Oleg Daniilovich will justify the trust of his electorate and will be a worthy replacement of Comrade Polozkov, who now heads the Russian party. [passage omitted]

Polzkov Addresses Krasnodar Party Conference

LD0408201190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] A party conference of Krasnodar Kray was held today. It examined the question of the first secretary of the Krasnodar Kray party committee. Altogether 31 candidates were nominated for this post as a result of an extensive exchange of views which took place at plenums of city and rayon party committees and meeting of primary communist party organizations prior to the conference. Following a comprehensive debate among delegates to the conference, a short list of five candidates was drawn up and a detailed vote was taken. Comrade Maslov was elected first secretary of the Krasnodar Kray party committee by a majority of votes. In the past, he was first secretary of the Timashevsk Rayon party committee. More recently, he has been a senior organizer in the Party Building and Cadre Work Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

Comrade Polozkov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Central committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, took part in the work of the conference and delivered an address.

Northwest Russian Cities Form 'Unusual' Union

PM0208135390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Jul 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Correspondent Viktor Filippov report under the rubric "Direct Link": "Union of Cities Created"]

[Text] Vologda—The creation of a union of cities of Northwest Russia has been proclaimed at a constituent meeting in Cherepovets.

Representatives of Arkhangelsk, Borovichi, Ivanov, Kostroma, Lomonosov, Leningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod, Petrozavodsk, Severodvinsk, and Cherepovets adopted a declaration and the main points of the statutes of this unusual organization, which rural rayons and entire oblasts may join if they so wish. The union intends to resolve tasks which are beyond the scope of its individual members but which will considerably accelerate growth in the well-being of the cities' residents. This means, in particular, the creation of a market infrastructure, mutual assistance in eliminating disproportions in the cities' development, joint activity in the economic, political, and ecological spheres, and the preparation of legislative initiatives.

It is a curious fact that the constituent meeting was held in Vologda Oblast, while the leaders of Vologda itself refrained from joining the union.

"I do not yet perceive any practical use in this," City Soviet Chairman Ye. Yershov said, voicing his doubt. "It is possible to cooperate with each other without creating new public structures which will inevitably require additional expenditure, particularly time, of which we have such a catastrophic shortage."

Baklanov Speaks at Sverdlovsk Oblast Plenum

LD0408083890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] The results of the CPSU congress were discussed today by those participating in the plenum of the Sverdlovsk Oblast Party Committee. The differing appraisals given to the congress by communists of the oblast party organization did not hinder them from nonetheless finding a common point for applying their strengths. Much attention at the plenum was devoted to enhancing the role of the primary party organizations and their influence on the life of labor collectives. The increase in the number of occasions where communists have left the CPSU was noted. During the past six months the oblast party organization has lost more than 8,000 of its members. The plenum called for the reasons behind these steps to be analyzed seriously and for party replenishments to be sought and prepared. The plenum adopted a decision that all communists take part in saving this year's harvest, having proposed to influence the resolution of the foodstuffs problem precisely by practical deeds and not by appeals. Baklanov, secretary of the CPSU, who yesterday spent some time in a number of industrial and agricultural collectives of Sverdlovsk Oblast, took part in the work of the plenum and spoke.

Kaliningrad Dissolves Party Rayon Committees

LD0608051290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0200 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] Starting today it has been decided to do away with party rayon committees in Kaliningrad. This idea was expressed at the gorkom plenum that was held by delegates to the 28th CPSU Congress. The best staff cadres of all the abolished rayon committees are going to the local soviets and returning to enterprises. To achieve better contacts between the town's party committee and primary organizations it has been decided to set up a town council of party committee secretaries.

Voronezh Obkom Plenum Expels Leaders

LD0408175590

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1430 GMT on 4 August in the "Vremya" newscast carries a 3.5-minute video report from Voronezh Oblast Party Committee where the Communist Party plenum is taking place. Announcer Igor Fesunenko reports that the plenum discussed the "extraordinary" situation of three oblast leaders who are accused of breaking party ethics, and the country's housing legislation.

Correspndent L. Maksimov, seated in the hall as the plenary session proceeds, provides some background information saying:

"Gennadiy Sergeyevich Kabasin is well known in the oblast. For many years, he was a rayon party committee first secretary in one of the rural districts. Subsequently, he was assigned to the Central Committee and worked there. Then he returned to the oblast, where the communists showed their confidence by electing him first secretary of the Voronezh Oblast Party Committee. He is also chairman of the Voronezh Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies and a USSR people's deputy. He was a delegate to the 28th party congress. The people of Voronezh were proud of their representative. But, evidently, Gennadiy Sergeyevich did not consider himself to be a representative of the people of Voronezh since, throughout his career in Voronezh, he held a permanent residence permit for Moscow. In other words, he commuted to and fro. Gennadiy Sergeyevich is not present here today. He is in Moscow. Therefore, I had to take archive film from Voronezh television studios in order to show him. [video shows clip of middle-aged man speaking into microphones] At the recent party conference, after a contested election, Kabasin was not reelected first secretary by the oblast's communists.

"Ivan Andrianovich Ivlev is chairman of the Voronezh Oblast Executive Committee. After being transfered to Voronezh, he received two apartments for his family. Later, he added an additional room to his existing three by pretending that an unrelated woman was his mother. Vyacheslav Zarubin, second secretary of the Voronezh Oblast Party Committee, is also accused of violating the regulations on apartments. He, too, is not in the hall. He is sick. His case was not disussed."

Maksimov reports that two participants in the plenum say that Kabasin, Zarubin, and Ivlev should be expelled from the party as they have discredited themselves. The plenum is described as the beginning of a purge and a profound restructuring in the party organization. Maksimov says that the offenses committed by Kabasin and Ivlev were condemned and they were removed from the Voronezh Oblast Party Committee Bureau. Ivlev also asked to be released from his duties. The question of party membership will be decided by primary party organizations.

Sverdlovsk Postal Services Grinding to a Halt

PM0608100990 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Report by E. Erkomayshvili and V. Iutin from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] None of the post offices in Sverdlovsk are working. Residents are no longer able to receive or send parcels or printed matter. A report from our correspondent.

[Reporter] The railroad sorting office was visited by a technical labor inspection team from the Communications Workers Union Central Committee. And they closed down the Sverdlovsk parcel reception sectors on the grounds that working there was hazardous to people's health. The enterprise has not been modernized in decades, its facilities have grown obsolete, and the situation has deteriorated to such an extent that not only are there not enough sidings to unload the parcels, but there is nowhere for the trucks to maneuver. Newspapers are being processed on part of the street, which has been cordoned off for this purpose. The entire equipment at the disposal of the women sorters are their two hands. At the present level of traffic, they have to move up to 1,000 parcels weighing a total of about seven tonnes per shift. There is simply nowhere to install modern equipment here.

In short, do people have to go to Tagil if they want to dispatch some printed matter?

[V.G. Nosov, head of the Sverdlovsk railroad postal sorting office] What can we do if our premises are only one-fifth or one-sixth of what they should be? In general, our rich ministry treats us as poor relations.

[Reporter] What needs to be done to alleviate the situation?

[V.G. Nosov] We are currently building temporary annexes and sheds. But this does not solve the problem as a whole and fundamentally.

[Reporter] To end with, they showed me another stipulation by the technical inspection service. It also threatens the closure of the post office newspaper service.

Vladivostok Closed Due to 'Epidemic'

LD0308085690

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Rusian at 2048 GMT on 2 August, in its "Television News Service" program, carries a three-minute report on the closing of Vladivostok due to fears of an epidemic.

Announcer Dmitriy Kiselev opens the report by saying: "Access to Vladivostok has been closed because of a worsening epidemiological situation." Correspondent L. Savitskiy then says that all 15 km of the beaches along the "azure coast" near Vladivostok are deserted. Normally the beaches are packed at this time of year. Health centers along the Gulf of Amur are also empty. Road blocks have also been set up on routes out of the city. The city has been cut off from the sea, the correspondent says. He says Typhoon Robin is to blame for this. He goes on: "But this has been brewing for a long time. This can be blamed on the ecological illiteracy of the local authorities, their reliance on luck rather than well thought-out management which would have ensured that the environment was clean. There are no sewage disposal installations. Every day Vladivostok dumps 500,000 cubic meters of effluent into the bay. These are the factors that have led to this situation."

He interviews A.V. Pereverzev, deputy chief medical officer of health for Vladivostok, who says: "Yes, the

typhoon came and went. A very large number of pumps at pumping stations were submerged. Many toilets were flooded. All this water found its way from basements into the sea, into the beaches, and so on. As a result, the epidemic situation is indeed very serious."

Savitskiy says that the city soviet has banned people from entering the city. Pereverzev then says that this decision has been published in the press. Organized groups will still be welcomed in the city if their packages are arranged in advance, but casual visitors from Amur Oblast, Khabarovsk Kray, Sakhalin, and Magadan Oblast will be subject to the restrictions.

Video shows aerial view of empty beach, glimpse of sign saying "bathing banned." A car is shown passing through road block. This is followed by a close-up of another notice saying "Attention! Because of the unfavorable sanitary and epidemiological situation, citizens from other towns and transport vehicles are not allowed to enter the city or its recreational zones without special passes. The fine for breaching this order is R100." Final shot shows three uniformed officials manning the road block.

Western Republics

Ukraine Bans Construction Work on Nuclear Plant

LD0308164290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] After declaring the Ukraine an ecological disaster area, the republic's Supreme Soviet proved consistent by deciding to halt all work on the construction of new units at nuclear power stations. The ban came into force immediately—that is, on 2 August, the day on which the parliament adopted its decision. Work on the construction sites is being mothballed for five years.

Rukh Propaganda, Incidents Mar Cossack Festival

PM0508170090 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 90 First Edition p 1

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent N. Mironov under the rubric "On the Spot": "Cossack Jubilee"]

[Text] Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye—In the cities and villages of Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporozhye Oblasts, a three-day festival of Cossack glory was held to mark the 500th anniversary of the Ukrainian Cossacks.

Beginning with a rally in Dnepropetrovsk's Theater Square, the festival then moved down the Dnepr to Nikopol, where at the grave of the glorious hetman Ivan Sirk a memorial mound was raised, public prayers held, and a cross dedicated. Then the columns of many thousands of participants in the festival made their way to Khortitsa Island in Zaporozhye, where there was another rally.

There were brightly colored garments, cheerful songs, and dancing, alongside fairground stalls offering national dishes.

Unfortunately, things did not pass off without unpleasant incidents. In Dnepropetrovsk a group of former paratroopers started a brawl with participants in the rally. At I. Sirk's grave a young man who dared to grab and wave a red flag that had been torn off a flagpole was beaten up.

It was noticeable that the regalia at the festival consisted solely of yellow-and-blue and black-and-red banners—not, alas, the symbols of the Soviet Ukraine.

It was disturbing to see among the 17th-century Cossack costumes young men and girls in the gray uniform of military formations which fought against the Red Army at the time of the Great Patriotic War.

In short, the impression created was that the Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] leaders were trying to exploit the festival to propagandize their own ideas, without giving their opponents the opportunity to reply.

Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Discusses Lenin Statue

LD0308125790 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] A report from the Supreme Soviet session.

The session returned to the issue raised yesterday on events in Chervonograd, Lvov Oblast. According to one version, a monument to Lenin in the town has been dismantled. According to another one, it has simply been transferred from one site to another. However, the chair proposed to draw up a draft decision in connection with the event and put it to the vote. The rostrum was given to Deputy Skoryk.

[Begin recording] [Skoryk] When all of us witness the ruination of cathedrals, when unique buildings are being demolished in our presence, no one dares to say anything; silence everywhere. Here we have a case of transferring a monument from one place to another, a case of transferring, not destroying it, and, in addition, a monument which is not a historic relic, but only a second-or third-rate artifact, and look what noise has risen up! Such questions as this should be tackled by local courts, not the Supreme Soviet. [end recording]

[Announcer] Next, Deputy Babiy.

[Begin Babiy recording] Esteemed deputies, what we have here is a transfer, transfer only, not destruction. This decision was taken not out of whimseyness, but because the miners of Chervonograd collieries threatened a political strike. All parties managed to arrive at a compromise solution: to move the monument to another place. [end recording]

[Announcer] Other deputies also contributed to the debate on this point. A draft decision on this issue was put to the vote. But because there was no quorum in the session hall at the time, the question was removed from the agenda altogether. The session then turned to the matter of forming the republic's government.

Ukraine's Masik Answers Questions on Chernobyl

LD0308181290 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] At today's session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, Kostyantyn Masik, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, replied to deputies' written questions. He started with the question on resettling people from areas affected by radiation and on privileges due to those who suffered from the Chernobyl breakdown. He also announced that an atlas of radioactive pollution in the republic will be published next year.

While replying to the question on whether an investigation will be launched on establishing the causes of the explosion that originated from the design of the reactor, Masik said:

[Begin Masik recording] As you know, an investigation was held, also a trial in Chernobyl, with the station's managers in the dock. As I said yesterday, the state authorities of the Union [USSR] did everything possible to find someone of the lowest ranks guilty and not those who are real culprits of the Chernobyl tragedy. One of these is academician Aleksandrov [former president of the USSR Academy of Sciences]. This is my personal view. Whether he will be tried or not, is not my affair. [end recording]

Ukraine Supreme Soviet Session Concludes 3 Aug

Opposition Causes Delays

LD0408025490 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Report by Vladimir Sokolov from Kiev]

[Text] [Sokolov] Yes, the concluding sitting of the session is coming to an end at this minute. It has lasted around 70 days, of which many have unfortunately passed almost to no avail. The official opposition, united in the so-called Narodna Rada, caused continuous delays in its work. Its members started disputes on any, even the most insignificant issue, seized the rostrum for long periods of time, burst into the hall with rally megaphones. At today's sitting they resorted to, and I am ashamed to say this, physical actions, after seeing the majority of deputies as being only proteges of the party apparatus, including even the Metropolitan of Vinnitsa and Bratslav. This Narodna Duma [as heard] also blocked a number of important decisions by refusing to vote or by leaving the hall. And so, having just invited Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, the republic's Supreme Soviet chairman, to the microphone, I first of all express my sympathy to him for the difficulty in holding these sessions.

[Kravchuk] All the same I regard this with understanding. I did not expect anything else because political aims are present here and there is an absence of culture. When all of this is combined it turns frequently into confrontation, into various abusive speeches, allusions, and so on. Nonetheless, we have adopted a number of very important legal documents even under these difficult conditions. First and foremost, the declaration of our sovereignty and a decision on all the Chernobyl problems. We have adopted a decision on priorities in the development of rural areas, a decision on a moratorium on the construction of atomic power stations, a moratorium on the construction of high power radar stations, and so on. A government was also formed here. Taking into account all the ambiguity, all the complexity, we are moving on because we cannot disregard the people's interests.

Session Summarized

LD0408073190 Moscow TASS in English 0723 GMT 4 Aug 90

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondents Alexey Petrunya and Oleg Tokhtomysh]

[Text] Kiev August 4 TASS—The Ukrainian parliament ended its session on Friday after passing an economic independence law.

During its two-and-a-half-month work, it also formed the Ukrainian government and its own steering and working bodies and enacted some 150 bills, including a declaration on the state independence of the Ukraine and a decision on urgent measures to protect the population from the effects of the Chernobyl accident.

Considering the ecological crisis in the republic and the unreasonably high number of nuclear power facilities on its territory, the session adopted a five-year moratorium on the construction of further nuclear power and high-capacity radar stations in the Ukraine. It also set a ceiling on the aggregate capacity of existing nuclear power facilities and radars.

In addition, the Supreme Soviet legislature issued a statement saying that Ukrainian citizens should do their Army service, as a rule, in the Ukraine rather than elsewhere in the country.

It said this was prompted by numerous letters from people worried about their near and dear ones serving in the Army, who are sent to protect public order and deal with ethnic conflicts to other republics.

The statement was addressed to the national Supreme Soviet, the Soviet president and prime minister, and the parliaments of other republics.

Ukrainian Soviet Adopts Economic Autonomy Law

PM0608103190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[Own correspondent Sergey Tsikora report: "Government Gains Power"]

[Text] Kiev—The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, which adopted the Law on the Economic Autonomy of the Ukrainian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], has handed over real power to the Ukrainian government.

The deputies called the law the republic's economic constitution, stressing that, after the sovereignty declaration, it is the second most important document adopted by the new parliament. It includes all the best points contained in the 12 alternative laws on economic sovereignty submitted by specialists from Kiev, Lvov, Odessa, Kharkov, Donetsk, and Dnepropetrovsk.

In accordance with the Law on Economic Autonomy, the republic intends, for the first time in its history, to guarantee a minimum wage for Ukrainian citizens.

Relations with the center are taking on a different form. There can now be no question of any diktat from the center, since the republic has taken the main levers of administration into its own hands. In order to ensure the economy's transition to market relations, guarantees of equal legal protection for all forms of ownership have been introduced. The republic is establishing its own financial and budgetary system headed by a national bank subordinate solely to the Ukrainian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The regulation of the economy and the social sphere will be carried out by applying certain taxes, quotas, credits, subsidies, and licenses. This rules out direct interference by state administrative organs in enterprises' economic activities.

Relations with neighboring republics will be new too. They will be based on a treaty system founded on the principles of equality and mutual advantage. But along with the development of these ties, the Ukraine intends to improve protection for its domestic market and is therefore organizing its own customs service.

It had been thought that this law would be introduced as soon as it was adopted by the Supreme Soviet, but the republic's government asked for its adoption to be postponed until a new Union treaty is adopted. This was prompted by the republic's lack of autonomous banking, monetary, or customs systems—which will take a considerable amount of time to set up. However, the deputies disregarded these government arguments and by a majority ratified the law on its first reading. It came into force 3 August.

Unfortunately, the session's last working day was overshadowed by an incident which could be called the hounding of deputies who had voted for themselves and for their absent neighbors. The argument, which virtually turned into a brawl and then into open political confrontation between different groups of deputies, ended with the Supreme Soviet having to be suspended for a considerable time.

Statinov, Masik Appointed to New Ukrainian Posts

LD0308194990 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 27 Jul 90 p1

[Summary] The Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] resolves:

To appoint Anatoliy Serhiyovych Statinov as first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR;

To appoint Kostyantyn (Kostantin) Ivanovich Masik as deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR.

Three New Ministers Appointed in Ukraine

LD0308124190 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Summary] The Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] has appointed:

Aleksandr Kovalenko as minister of finances of the Ukrainian SSR;

Vladimir Delikatnyy as minister of communications of the Ukrainian SSR;

Vitaliy Boyko as minister of justice of the Ukrainian SSR.

New Ukraine Construction Minister Appointed

LD0308182690 Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Summary] The Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet today appointed Volodymyr Plitin as minister of construction of the Ukrainian SSR.

Miners' Leaders Air Grievances With Ryzhkov

PM0608085990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Discussion on Miners' Problems"]

[Text] A wide range of issues connected with work in the mining industry under the conditions of transition to market relations, and the problem of living conditions and consumer services for miners were examined at a meeting between M.I. Shchadov, USSR minister of the coal industry, and leaders of associations, enterprises, and organizations in the Donetsk Coalfield. Resolution 717, recently adopted by the USSR Council of Ministers, on the socioeconomic development of miners' cities and settlements in the Ukraine and ways of implementing it were discussed in detail. There were complaints to the

Ministry of the Coal Industry and other ministries and departments about unsatisfactory supplies to miners, above all of timber, metal, and other materials. There is particular alarm about the state of affairs with regard to the conclusion of contracts for the material and technical supply of production in 1991.

At the meeting participants' request, they were received by N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, 4 August. In the course of a frank and businesslike exchange of opinions, questions of improving the work of the coal industry were examined. Enterprise directors shared their ideas on improving the sector's management structure. They advocated retaining a centralized management system for the coal industry. At the same time, it was stressed that ties should be developed as far as possible at republic level. The recently established Ukrainian Coal Committee should provide substantial assistance to pits and open cuts in their collaboration with other enterprises, organizations, and local organs of power.

Concluding the discussion, N.I. Ryzhkov devoted great attention to the transition of pits and open cuts to economic autonomy and to the enhancement of miners' interest in the results of their work. Specific decisions were made on a number of questions of a production, economic, and social nature.

Stroyev's Instructions on Work in Rural Ukraine

LD0508164890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Stroyev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was in Rovno, Zhitomir, and Kiev Oblasts from 2 to 4 August. During visits to farms and enterprises in the agrarian sector, and at his meetings with the party and economic aktiv and with specialists and scientists, he discussed work on implementing the decisions of the 28th CPSU Congress and ways of developing the sector and the agro-industrial complex, increasing food production, and introducing diverse forms of management. He also talked about achievements in science and of practical experience.

It was noted that rural communists should thoroughly study the documents, speed up their participation in improving the economy, train labor forces for work in conditions of market relations, and pay more attention to the social development of collective and state farms. It is essential to accumulate ideas and to strengthen the prestige of the party among the peasants. There was also discussion of the fact that rural areas need specific recommendations on improving the structure of production administration, on constant maintenance of fairness in exchange between urban and rural areas, on the regulation of the market and the establishment of a multi-structured economy, and on improvement of land relations and enhancement of the ecological situation.

Odessa City Soviet Wants Chemical Plant Closed

PM0608103790 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Report by S. Fateyev from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Of late we frequently hear calls from various quarters demanding that operations at a plant be suspended, a power station be shut down, or a factory be dismantled. These calls are frequently based on entirely justified concern for people's health or the ecological situation. However, on the other hand, can you picture what would happen to our already ailing economy if enterprises producing essential goods and power stations supplying electricity were to suddenly close down? And what are the workers who lose their jobs to do?

What I want to say by this is that rash decisions must be avoided and that all the pros and cons should be carefully weighed in every specific case. In Odessa, for instance, a session of the city soviet has decided that a major enterprise—the dockside chemical plant—should be closed down.

[Reporter] This difficult decision was adopted virtually unanimously by a session of the Odessa City Soviet. Only two deputies voted against.

[Plant Director V.S. Gorbatko, facing camera] The plant deals with tasks of major importance for the state. And saying that it must be completely closed down is totally wrong in my opinion. Apart from that, a compromise version of the plant need not present any danger, not even a potential danger, to the inhabitants of Odessa.

[Reporter] Let me remind you that the dockside plant comprises a major chemical complex including an ammonia production facility, large-scale storage facilities for ammonia, methanol, and other dangerous substances, a large-diameter ammonia pipeline, and and a major mooring line for loading sea-going ships with liquid and dry-cargo chemical goods. [video shows facilities]

[V.K. Simonenko, chairman of Odessa City Soviet Executive Committee] During the first stage the plant must cut back or completely suspend all harmful production. That on the one hand, and on the other hand it must elaborate an outline plan for switching to different output to ensure that there is no danger to life both within the plant's sanitary protection zone and Odessa City as a whole.

Moldavian Party Plenum Held in Kishinev 4 Aug

Shenin Participates

LD0408190890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] In Kishinev today there was a joint plenum of the Central Committee and the Control and Auditing Commission of the Communist Party of Moldova. A report

on the results of the 28th CPSU Congress was delivered by Luchinskiy, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Moldova.

A decision was adopted on the issues discussed. The plenum confirmed the standing of the commissions of the Moldova Communist Party Central Committee and the composition of the commission dealing with preparing the program and rules of the republic's Communist Party.

Comrade Snegur asked the Central Committee to suspend his membership in the party for as long as he fulfils the functions of chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet. The plenum met his request. Taking part in the plenum was Shenin, member of the Politburo and a CPSU Central Committee secretary.

Luchinskiy, Shenin Report

LD0408213190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2000 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Here is a report from Kishinev. A joint plenum of the Central Committee and the Control and Auditing Commission of the Communist Party of Moldova took place here on Saturday. A report on the results of the 28th CPSU Congress was delivered by Luchinskiy, member of the Politburo and first secretary of Central committee of the Communist Party of Moldova. Shenin, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, took part in the work of the plenum.

During his three-day stay in Moldova, Comrade Shenin visited a number of areas of the republic. Whoever he met, everywhere people expressed concern above all about when the situation in the country would finally stabilize and improve. People continue to have faith in the party, in its strength and capability to bring perestroyka to its conclusion. Great concern among the republican communists was caused by the provision on the abolition of primary party organizations in enterprises, organizations and institutions, included in the decree on state power, which has been recently adopted by the Supreme Soviet of Moldovan Soviet Socialist Republic. Does this not mean the abolition of the party itself? In the opinion of the CPSU Central Committee secretary, it is possible to ban the activities of party organizations in enterprises but no one can forbit the people with identical views and convictions to tackle problems of their party in their free time. This is their right. Communists at present simply should not give up their positions, but should look for new forms of work.

Moldavian Culture Society Holds Congress

LD0508202590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Summary] The constituent congress of the Moldavian cultural and education society ("Mastaravam") discussed the preservation of the native language. It ended in Saransk today. Attended by Moldavians from all over the USSR, it adopted a program charter, and outlined ways to help expand language teaching, organize cultural centers, spread information, and prepare cadres for schools.

Belorussia Appeals to UNEP Over Chernobyl

LD0308095290 Moscow TASS in English 0927 GMT 3 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Manvelov]

[Text] Nairobi August 3 TASS—Belorussia has called on the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to help combat the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Speaking at the second special session of the UNEP governing council, deputy chairman of the Belorussian Committee on Environmental Protection V. Aleshka stressed that the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was an international disaster, affecting all spheres of public life, science, production, and morale.

Participants in the session listened in silence to the report on the aftermath of the April 26, 1986 Chernobyl nuclear plant accident, which released more than 50 million curie of various radionuclides, 70 per cent of which were spread over Belorussia.

An area where more than 2.2 million people live was contaminated. The disaster left 20 per cent of the farm land and forests unusable.

New long-term effects of the accident are taking their toll on the republic, Aleshka said.

The disease rate is growing, especially among children. More than 35 per cent of the children born in 1989 had defects, diseases of the pancreas have increased by a factor of 2, of throat—by a factor of 10, and of the eye—3.

School children and pre-schoolers are dying of cancer, Aleshka said.

The Belorussian parliament has called on the United Nations to declare the republic an ecological disaster zone.

Aleshka praised the efforts of governments, organisations and private individuals to help minimize the consequences of the disaster. He expressed hope that the UNEP will expand international efforts to help Chernobyl victims in line with the United Nations Economic and Social Council July 13, 1990 resolution.

Belorussian Supreme Soviet Appoints Ministers

Six Ministers Selected

LD0308231890 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belorussian 25 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] resolves:

To appoint Boris Vasilyevich Batura as minister of housing and municipal services of the Belorussian SSR;

Nikolay Ivanovich Dubovik as chairman of the State Committee for Fuel and Gasification of the Belorussian SSR;

Vladimir Nikolayevich Ryzhenkov as chairman of the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport of the Belorussian SSR;

Vladimir Nikolayevich Nechiperovich as chairman of the State Committee for Statistics and Analyses of the Belorussian SSR;

Vladimir Valeryanovich Radkevich as chairman of the State Committee for External Economic Relations of the Belorussian SSR;

Aleksandr Borisovich Zuyev as chairman of the State Committee for Supervising Work Safety in Industry and at Nuclear Power Plants of the Belorussian SSR.

Four More Ministers Named

LD0308232490 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belorussian 28 Jul 90 p.2

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] resolves:

To appoint Georgiy Petrovich Badey as chairman of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security of the Population of the Belorussian SSR;

Ivan Albinovich Kenik as deputy chairman of the Council of Minsiters and as chairman of the State Commtitee for Problems of Consequences of the Chernobyl Catastrophe of the Belorussian SSR;

Nikolay Vasilyevich Novitskiy as minister of construction of the Belorussian SSR;

Vladimir Mikhaylovich Shepel as minister of the Belorussian SSR [no portfolio as published]

Belorussia Removes People's Control System

904D0172A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 18 Jul 90 p 2

[Report by unidentified SELSKAYA ZHIZN correspondent: "When There Is No Point in Control"]

[Text] Minsk, 17 July—Now Belorussia has followed in Russia's footsteps and will operate without organs of people's control.

This was the decision of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet whose session directed the republic government and local soviets to resettle employees of the eliminated department to other job positions over the course of two months.

It seems to me the decision is quite reasonable. As the transition to market relations takes place, labor collectives are becoming managers of the enterprises and there is no point in having controllers from outside. And indeed, instead of an ineffective army of "people's" control inspectors, how much more advantageous it will be for the state to maintain a mobile, competent finance and taxation inspectorate endowed with real economic powers and rights.

Belorussian Town Abolishes Rayon Party Committee

LD0508213690 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1950 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Rayon party committees are being abolished in the Belorussian town of Bobruysk. This idea was supported by the majority of communists after a discussion. The cadres released have mostly been sent to the national economy. Annual savings on expenses for maintaining and servicing the apparatus is over 200,000 rubles. The buildings where the rayon committees were located are being handed over to local institutions for lease.

Caucasus

Armenian Supreme Soviet Elects New President

NC0408183190 Paris AFP in English 1813 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Yerevan, Soviet Union, Aug 4 (AFP)—Armenian nationalist leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan was elected president of the Armenian Supreme Soviet Saturday as tension mounted between nationalist militia groups and the Soviet Army.

Observers said the nationalist heavyweight faced a stiff test as time ran out on a 48-hour Soviet Army ultimatum that nationalist militia groups return arms allegedly stolen from a military base here.

The 45-year-old won the presidential contest after four rounds, beating his rival Vladimir Movsisyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party, 140 votes to 76.

In parliament, deputies applauded as the new leader called his election "the victory of the people." He promised to work in cooperation with Mr. Movsisyan.

Outside, hundreds followed the parliamentary broadcast and celebrated, waving the Armenian national flag.

Roads from the Armenian capital have been blocked after nightfall for the past two days and Soviet troops have been searching cars for missing weapons, which are said to include 165 flame-throwers and 95 rocket launchers.

Helicopters hovered overhead as shoppers filled Yerevan's markets on Saturday morning.

But Army Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Zazulya told AFP there would be "no action" Saturday by the Soviet Army.

The arms crisis erupted when General Mikhail Surkov, head of the Soviet Army in Armenia, claimed that an "unidentified group" penetrated a Soviet military base in Yerevan early Thursday and neutralised guards before making off with an arsenal of arms.

This came after weeks of daily conflict between extremist armenians and security forces. A policeman was killed early Friday and there were unconfirmed reports of casualties among the nationalists.

In late July, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev threatened to send in the Interior Ministry, the KGB secret service and possibly the Soviet Army, unless the militias surrendered their arms before August 10.

Several militia leaders have said they will not hand over their arms.

The new president is staunchly in favour of returning the Azerbaijani autonomous region Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, a cause for which he was imprisoned for six months in 1988, along with eleven other members of the Armenian Karabakh Committee.

On his release, Mr. Ter-Petrosyan became a national hero, and was elected to the Armenian Supreme Soviet in August 1989.

He was an activist at University in Yerevan from 1965 to 1968, running a campaign for the recognition Turkish genocide of Armenians in 1915, a claim disputed by Turkey. He was imprisoned for several months in 1966.

He has a science doctorate, is an expert in Eastern affairs and an avid historian.

Among the tasks ahead of parliament is consideration of seven versions of an Armenian declaration of independence.

Ter-Petrosyan Interviewed

NC0508081090 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] Yerevan, Soviet Union, Aug 5 (AFP)—The newly elected leader of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan believes his "nationalist" record will be decisive in helping to persuade members of the Armenian militia to hand in their weapons to head off a looming crisis with Moscow.

He said as much late on Saturday to AFP journalists, shortly after being elected in a fourth round of voting as speaker of the Armenian parliament and de facto "president" of the Armenian Republic.

"If troops from Moscow do not intervene, we can settle the problem between ourselves," he said in a reference to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's ultimatum to the militia to surrender all firearms by August 10.

Mr. Gorbachev, in a July 25 decree, gave the Armenian and other nationalist militias which have sprung up around the Soviet Union, two weeks to disarm. The Armenians have so far ignored the decree.

Mr. Ter-Petrosyan, 45, who earned his nationalist stripes as a leader of the Armenian National Movement and the Karabakh Committee, said "Armenian sovereignty and resolving the militia crisis" would be his first priorities.

Although he believed Mr. Gorbachev "has not said his last word" on the militias, Mr. Ter-Petrosyan said "the fedayeen (Armenian volunteers) will take into account the fact that a nationalist government has taken over in Armenia and they will obey that government."

He said the new Armenian government was relying on this "to avoid confrontation" with Moscow.

On Monday, the Armenian parliament will start studying various formulae for a declaration of sovereignty.

Supreme Soviet To Discuss Political Status

NC0608105890 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 0600 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The first session of the 12th convocation of the Armenian Supreme Soviet is continuing its deliberations today at the Hall of Congresses of the republic's Supreme Soviet. According to the agenda, the Supreme Soviet will discuss the declaration on the political status of the republic. The session is being chaired by Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the newly elected chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet who is also [words indistinct] a member of the Karabakh Committee and president of the administrative board of the Armenian Pannational Movement. [passage omitted]

At the suggestion of the the newly elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet, a commission was set up yesterday with instructions to formulate a declaration on the new political status of our republic. The commission will work on the formulation of the declaration today and will present it to the Supreme Soviet for discussion and endorsement tomorrow morning.

We can in fact say that after this a new (?path) will open before our republic.

Armenia Not Adhering to President's Arms Decree

Surkov Says Situation 'Tense'

PM0308185690 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Major General M. Surkov, USSR people's deputy and chief of the Yerevan Garrison Political Department, by IZVESTIYA special correspondents S. Bablumyan and V. Litovkin; place and date not specified: "Armenia: Danger Point"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The situation in the Transcaucasus is still tense. The USSR president's decree on disarming illegal military formations has not had any substantial effect on the state of affairs as yet. Our correspondents asked Major General M.S. Surkov, USSR people's deputy and chief of the Yerevan Garrison Political Department, to comment on the situation.

[Surkov] It is very hard to voice an unequivocal opinion of the situation in the region. An Armenian Supreme Soviet session adopted the decision to suspend the decree's operation on the republic's territory. Representatives of various armed groups with whom we have spoken do not think it possible to surrender weapons voluntarily. Ordinary people realize that things have gone too far and that there are too many weapons around. Certainly, the crime situation is showing no signs of improvement. There have been cases where military camps have come under bombardment. Various rumors are playing a particularly pernicious role. For instance, it is rumored that seven generals have arrived in Armenia, along with a large number of troops. Figures of 12,000 have been cited, along with the place where they are allegedly stationed. Although to date no general and no additional soldiers have reached us. Systematic training—if you can call it that—is under way among the troops. We must now think more about ensuring that trains run regularly. We are taking a number of steps to prevent attacks on our subunits. We are thinking about how to persuade people to voluntarily surrender their weapons.

As for the progress made in fulfilling the decree, we are putting the emphasis on vigorous informational means in order, by means of loudspeakers, to persuade various groups to surrender their weapons. We are seeking contacts with the leaders with groups whom we still do not know in order to persuade them of the need to surrender their weapons and to avoid bloodshed. The main task is to prevent casualties at all costs.

[IZVESTIYA] But how do you intend to carry out the decree?

[Surkov] Local organs must do this with the help of informal organizations and with the help of these self-same armed groups. You can often hear the following at meetings with representatives of armed groupings: I'm not frightened of death, I'm not afraid of dying.... But if we were only risking our own lives.... The lives of innocent people are under threat.

Certainly no one denies that there is a problem in Nagorno-Karabakh. It must certainly be resolved. Someone must pluck up the courage and realize that armed opposition is futile. The host of misfortunes that have unfortunately befallen Armenia has turned this flourishing area into a scene of semi-destruction with its ill-equipped earthquake zone, its vast number of refugees, its problems in finding people jobs, and its problem of the railroad blockade. We cannot live like this any longer. It is necessary for people both here and in Azerbaijan to show wisdom and courage and come to the negotiating table. Further, if we do not rise above the insults and if we fail to realize the position we are in, this will lead to even greater sorrow and still more bloodshed. It is not blood but reason alone that can convince today. And dialogue. For starters, we must strive to ensure that weapons are surrendered on both sides of the republics' border and that a guarantee of trust in one another is given. Those people who do not fulfill the decision of local organs and organizations and who do not surrender their weapons must be dealt with in accordance with the law.

[IZVESTIYA] Everyone today is worried about one thing—what will happen after the 15-day period for weapons to be voluntarily surrendered has elapsed?

[Surkov] I personally see it like this. After all the dates have expired, we will engage in additional contacts with armed detachments, issue them with an ultimatum, hold talks, and once again try to persuade them that the decree must be fulfilled.

[IZVESTIYA] You are a military man. It might be the case that persuasion will not help. Will you give the order to open fire?

[Surkov] I was asked this question at the Armenian Supreme Soviet. I was asked straight out: "Will I shoot at the Armenian people?" I would never dare to give the order to fire on unarmed people. I am sure that the overwhelming majority of officers adhere to these principles. No one will fire on unarmed people, on the Armenian people. Just as we will do everything to prevent bloodshed if we have accurate information that an armed group is to be found in a particular place. We are ready to hold any talks, and are ready to go to any group. And do everything as long as words have any effect.

Weapons Seizures Continue

LD0408041790 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 3 TASS—According to reports from Armenia, attackers continue to seize arms and ammunition. According to provisional data, a group of armed people attacked a militia post in the Ararat region on Thursday night. In the ensuing shootout one militia man was killed. The attackers also sustained casualties.

Searches are underway to locate and confiscate 165 portable flamethrowers and ammunition that fell into the hands of the terrorists who attacked a military unit.

On August 2 the republican newspaper KOMMUNIST published an address by women deputies of the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

"We are opposed to the Soviet Army and interior troops enforcing the decree of the Soviet president in various regions of the country, including the republic. No more

blood should be spilled. We need to stop. We demand settling the situation only by peaceful means."

The alarm of mothers can be understood. But it is more important for the women deputies, like all residents of Armenia, to take a sober look at the situation in the republic.

KGB Offices Ransacked

LD0408125590 Moscow TASS in English 1248 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow August 4 TASS—The KGB Press Centre issued the following press release here:

Extremist actions in Armenia continue to aggravate the situation there. Late in the evening on August 2 an armed group of more than 100 people attacked the Ararat town police department. During the shoot-out, which lasted about half an hour, Captain Kostanyan, chief of the criminal investigation division, was killed, as was the gang's leader, Smbat.

After that, the extremists broke into the building that houses the KGB district offices and went on a rampage there, stealing weapons and secret documents.

Clashes between gangs continue. On the night of August 3 the house of Markaryan, leader of one of the gangs, in the village of Vostane was attacked with automatic fire, howitzers and grenade launchers in the course of a clash between rival groups. Neighbouring dwellings suffered considerable damage.

Weapons Still Being Seized

PM0408193290 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Aug 90 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report from "Our Correspondents Report" feature, under general heading "How Disarmament Is Going: Latest News From...": "...Armenia"]

[Text] It appears that our "internal disarmament," begun under the USSR president's decree, is experiencing as many difficulties as external disarmament did. Unfortunately, the main news on this difficult subject today comes from Armenia. Here the republic Supreme Soviet has suspended the operation of the USSR president's decree.

We were told at the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs:

"Since the beginning of August attacks on internal affairs organs for the purpose of seizing weapons have continued. Staffer S. of the Myasnikyanskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department was seized in the street by 15 people and held hostage. A few hours later, under cover of a threat to harm him, the criminals attempted to penetrate the buildings of the Myasnikyanskiy and then the Leninskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Departments. After an armed rebuff, they went into hiding. S., whose documents were taken away from him, was released. Another group, consisting of approximately 10-12 people, burst into the guard section at 'Erebuni' Airport. The extremists demanded that the guard detail hand over its pistols. But here too they failed to seize any weapons. And here are some more details on a report of an attack on another rayon internal affairs department. In this case they seized weapons, flak jackets, a mine detector, a radio station.... This happened in Martuninskiy Rayon in the Armenian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic].

"A little earlier, three armed men burst into the 'Erebuni' design bureau building, tied up the guard, and took seven TT pistols and the same number of revolvers from the civil defense office.

"In Armenia's Artashatskiy Rayon a firefight between two amred groupings lasted about an hour." [Internal Affairs Ministry report ends]

"Some 165 infantry rocket flamethrowers, 102 charges for them, 675 signal rockets—that quantity of weapons has been added to the arsenal of the illegal armed formations operatong on Armenian SSR territory. They seized them 2 August in an attack on an army subunit in a rayon of Yerevan," a staffer of the USSR Defense Ministry Press Center was told by Major General M. Surkov, USSR people's deputy and chief of the garrison political department. "The criminals, approximately 50 of them, chose the early morning for their attack. It was 0400 hours. They approached in cars, leaving them about 400 meters from the military camp. Under cover of darkness they penetrated its territory and felled Junior Sergeant A. Simonyan with a blow from behind. The other servicemen of the 24-hour patrol, who were not armed, were kept in the sights of submachine guns by one group of attackers, while another group penetrated the storerooms where the flamethrowers were. You could tell that they had prepared thoroughly for the attack and knew where things were. The raiders were fired on by a patrol from a neighboring subunit which had been alerted to the attack. When fire opened, they fled.

"Thus the criminals got hold of some terrible weapons. It is not hard to imagine the consequences of the use of these weapons, especially against civilians. There is no guarantee that these people's adventurism and recklessness, which result in acts of gangsterism like this, will not push them even further. This is the 61st attack this year on military subunits and individual servicemen.

"Of course PRAVDA readers will want to know about the specifications of this type of flamethrower. It has been in the armory since 1975. Its range is about 200 meters for a grazing shot, up to a maximum of 400 meters. It can be used against people, as well as to set fire to buildings or other targets. It is a close-range combat weapon.

"Of course, what happened is another bitter lesson for us. Negligence in the storage of weapons is obvious here. Proceedings will be taken against the culprits. We will draw the necessary conclusions with a view to improving our service and increasing our vigilance.

"It has been decided to issue servicemen with personal weapons. Officers and warrant officers are confined to barracks and the guard on military facilities has been strengthened.

"I delivered a briefing on the latest crime at the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet session. The resolution adopted on this question demands, in particular, that the weapons be returned within 48 hours. This expires at 1400 on 4 August. But unfortunately the attackers have not yet given themselves up. And to be frank, similar appeals before have not produced results. The search for the weapons continues."

Troops Ready To Act on Order

PM0508123290 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 90 p 1

[Special correspondents V. Aloyan, A. Krayniy report: "Armenia: Troops Ready to Attack"]

[Excerpts] Yerevan—[passage omitted] Naturally, when the various bandit formations have showdowns among themselves or when certain recidivists who also call themselves fedayin, that is, defenders of the motherland, settle their restaurant bill with a few rounds from an assault rifle, it is the civilians who suffer. There is growing dissatisfaction among the population with the inactivity of the law enforcement organs. At the same time the Supreme Soviet is opposed to the implementation of the USSR president's decree on surrendering weapons. Everyone here—from V. Movsisyan, first secretary of the Communist Party Central Committee, to L. Ter-Petrosyan, leader of the Armenian Pannational Movement—says that Armenia will deal with the bandit formations by its own efforts.

The most popular military man in Armenia, USSR People's Deputy Major General Mikhail Surkov, chief of the Yerevan Garrison Political Department, told us yesterday that the troops are ready to carry out the order to confiscate weapons. But the order has not come. Whether it will come, is not known. If the republic Supreme Soviet elects a Supreme Soviet chairman (as we dictate these lines, the elections are still in progress) and then adopts a Declaration on Sovereignty and formalizes in legislation the existence of the Armenian National Army, the fulfillment of the presidential decree, which is already extremely difficult, will become even harder.

But for the time being... the ultimatum is about to run out for the people who seized 165 flamethrowers and the charges for them 2 August. Unless the flamethrowers are returned to the Soviet Army by 5:30 [AM or PM not specified] on 4 August, the culprits, Ter-Petrosyan stated, will answer to the full severity of the law. But even if they are not returned, as indicated, it will be the republic law enforcement organs that deal with those who attacked the flamethrower battalion.

In this situation the troops of the Yerevan Garrison are in the most difficult position. Maj. Gen. Surkov believes that if Armenia needs weapons, the problem should be resolved by legal means. The seizing of assault rifles, pistols, and now flamethrowers is unacceptable, and the army will seek to recover the weapons by every available means. But for the time being troop operations are ruled out. Only operation "Koltso" ["Ring"] is in progress, which takes the form of military patrols covering all the roads leading out of Yerevan and checking all vehicles. The flamethrowers have not yet been found. But operation "Koltso" has already borne fruit: 63 stolen vehicles, five pistols, and 11 grenades have been found. [passage omitted]

Stop the Press

At the Armenian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] session the chairman of the republic's highest legislative organ was elected. He is 45-year-old Levon Ter-Petrosyan, member of the Karabakh Committee and leader of the Armenian Pannational Movement.

Supreme Soviet Arms Decree

NC0608104490 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] As has already been reported, after long deliberations the Armenian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet passed a decision on the USSR president's decree of 25 July 1990 "On Prohibiting the Creation of Armed Formations Not Provided For By USSR Legislation and Removing Weapons Where They Are Illegally Held." The full text of that decision is published below:

Guided by Article 75 of the Armenian SSR Constitution, according to which the USSR laws and legislative acts touching upon the interests of the republic could go into force in the Armenian SSR after their sanction by the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet;

Reiterating the declaration of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet of 20 July 1990, according to which the Soviet Army and the subunits of the internal troops have no right to engage in any punitive action on the territory of Armenia without the permission of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet;

Considering that the president's decree "On Prohibiting the Creation of Armed Formations Not Provided For By the USSR Legislation and Removing Weapons Where They Are Illegally Held" in principle contravenes the Armenian people's natural right to self-defence which is enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter;

Moved by the desire to prevent possible clashes between the USSR Armed Forces and the Armenian population and bloodshed on both sides, the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet decides:

1. To suspend the implementation of the aforesaid decree in the Armenian SSR, Nagorno-Karabakh included.

2. To place the resolution of this matter under its jurisdiction, excluding any intervention from outside.

3. To express its readiness to conduct negotiations with the USSR president on this matter.

4. To instruct the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers to ensure the implementation of this decision.

5. To inform the USSR president and the supreme soviets of the Union republics about this decision.

'Extremists' Fire on Shepherds in Lachinskiy Rayon

NC0308111590 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1730 GMT 2 Aug 90

[Text] According to an AZERINFORM correspondent, the situation has been normal in the Nakhichevan ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] and in Kel'badzharskiy, Kedabekskiy, Kazakhskiy, Kubatlinskiy, Tauzskiy, and Zangelanskiy Rayons during the past day. No firing or attacks from the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic were registered.

However, the Armenian extremists opened fire on shepherds in the Karagol farming settlement in Lachinskiy Rayon.

Presidential Decree Ignored in Georgia, Armenia

LD0308174190 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1130 GMT 3 Aug 90

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Compliance with the presidential decree banning the formation of armed groupings is not going smoothly in various areas of the country. In Georgia, the operation of the decree has been suspended until the end of the work of the republic's Supreme Soviet session. At the same time, in Armenia, where, as is known, the decision has been made not to carry out the presidential decree, raids on the militia and the armed guard aimed at capturing weapons are continuing. However, the republic's internal affairs minister, Galstyan, has given assurances to the head of the Soviet state to the effect that Armenia's law enforcement bodies and Supreme Soviet will cope with confiscating weapons peacefully. This information was supplied by the Postfaktum agency.

Agreement Reached, Samtredia Blockade Cleared

Trains Start To Move 2 Aug

PM0308105590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 2 Aug 90 Second Edition p 2

[Roundup of reports by correspondents G. Lebanidze, B. Pipiya, A. Streltsov, and V. Chertkov: "Thrombus at Samtredia Removed?"]

[Text] A long-awaited news report reached the editorial office from Georgia yesterday: After five days, the transport thrombus at Samtredia Railroad Station has finally begun to be resorbed.

Latest news from...

...Tbilisi—Agreement has been reached with sociopolitical organizations to remove pickets from Samtredia Junction who have paralyzed traffic on the Transcaucasus Railroad.

"Today the trains which had piled up on the tracks have started moving," V. Batsikadze, acting chief of the Transcaucasus Railroad, told PRAVDA's correspondent. "This is the umpteenth day that Samtredia has not been absent from the pages of republican and central newspapers. Millions of television viewers have seen on their screens the pickets blocking traffic and the immobile chains of trains. Yesterday there were 60 'abandoned' trains just at Samtredia Station itself, while, in all, 134 freight trains and 16 passenger trains had come to a halt on the railroad, not counting those which had stopped on the approaches to Georgia from the North Caucasus Railroad and Azerbaijan. There is more than 320,000 tonnes of national economic freight in 6,000 cars standing on the tracks: grain, flour, oil, sugar, meat, fuel, and much besides."

With regard to the prevailing situation, ZARYA VOSTOKA published a commentary by Transcaucasus Transport Prosecutor R. Kipiani. He points out, in particular, that during talks with him the participants in the action declared "that their demands are valid and just." How is it possible to justify actions punishable by law, in particular by Article 206 of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic Criminal Code?

Criminal proceedings have been instituted with regard to the Samtredia case.

...Sukhumi—People are cursing those who paralyzed traffic on the Transcaucasus mainline.

Children and old people are in railcars. Beyond the window lie the subtropics in summer. In order to ease the situation at least somehow, the leadership of the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic has allocated the necessary number of buses. They have taken children to neighboring airports. The day before yesterday Ikarusz buses left for Tbilisi with Armenian kids who had been vacationing in Sochi.

All the fuel was given over to transporting people. Ambulances and fire engines had nothing to run on, and grain had to be conveyed almost in handcarts. Neither gasoline nor food, stocks of which have dwindled, have arrived.

PRAVDA's correspondent was also in Sukhumi at the time of last year's memorable events. Then too I was struck by the silent rails, but that paralysis seems to have taught nothing—for some people the railroad remains

something like their own truck garden... Would you credit the state allowing the arteries that feed its organism to be cut.

The country is being brought to ruin by such actions, and there, in Samtredia, people have picked your pocket and mine.

...The Ministry of Railways—The first train to be able to leave Samtredia was the No. 47 from Moscow to Batumi, which had stood at the station for several days. Then trains on the Yerevan-Moscow and Tskhaltubo-Moscow routes set out. In this way the giant blockage began to be resorbed.

Owing to a shortage of cars in the ports of Batumi and Poti, ships with 45,000 tonnes of imported grain were not unloaded on schedule.

Approximately 100,000 of the country's citizens were forced to cancel their trips to resorts in the Caucasus and the Transcaucasian republics. More than 20,000 people had to be conveyed from the halted trains in buses, boats, and aircraft. V. Ginko, USSR first deputy minister of railways, reported that the railroad blockade will mean a loss of many millions of rubles for the country's national economy.

...The MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs]—Militia Major General V. Fomin, deputy chief of the USSR MVD Main Administration of Internal Affairs in Transport, reported that the situation at Samtredia is returning to normal.

During these uneasy days 70 militiamen are serving in the city under a reinforced option. Together with the militarized guard of the Railways Ministry they are keeping an eye on the abandoned freight and passenger trains. According to preliminary data, no break-ins to goods cars or thefts of freight or passengers' personal property have been recorded. Nor have any unlawful actions been committed with regard to people who have found themselves blockaded. The militia has given assistance in conveying people to bus stations and helped to organize catering. Nor have acts of hooliganism or other violations connected with the safety of people's lives been recorded in places where pickets have been concentrated.

Pickets Removed After Agreement

PM0308122590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 1 Aug 90

[Report by N. Gongadze from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Newscaster] It has already been reported that representatives of certain political groupings blockaded the railroads in the city of Samtredia in Georgia 26 July. This brought traffic virtually to a standstill on the Transcaucasian Railroad. The pickets were removed at 0800 hours today after an agreement was secured between the sides, and trains began to move in all directions.

[Gongadze] [video shows train moving past many stationary trains] This is one of the first trains going west through Tbilisi Station early this morning. Ticket offices have now begun to function and the first passenger trains are also appearing. Stages and sidings are unloading the freight from the freightcars that have accumulated there. [video shows reporter conducting an interview] Are trains traveling along all routes?

[V.S. Dzhaparashvili, deputy head of the Transcaucasian Railroad] Trains are already traveling in absolutely all directions—to Azerbaijan, to Armenia, and to the northern Caucasus.

[Gongadze] Roughly how long will it take to completely restore a normal situation on our part of the railroad?

[Dzhaparashvili] It will be very hard to restore normal work on the railroad. Everything now depends on how we unload and release the freightcars. Maximum efforts are being applied to this question. [passage omitted]

Gumbaridze on Rail Situation

LD0308183290

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0230 GMT on 3 August in its "120 Minutes" program carries a 4-minute report on the rail blockade in the Georgian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. Correspondent Yevgeniy Kiselev says the political reasons for the strike should not be forgotten.

Kiselev notes the first reason is that the opposition supporters were trying to force the convention of an extraordinary session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet; they were demanding the introduction of a multi-party system in the republic. Kiselev says they were also insisting on one variant of the draft law on elections on a multi-party basis. Kiselev then introduces a recording of a commentary by Givi Gumbaridze, Georgian Supreme Soviet chairman.

Gumbaridze says, "We tried to settle the problem by political methods, which was done. The session will proceed in the appointed period. All the alternative variants of the draft law have been published. As for conducting the session, one needs a normal, calm situation. I think the law will have its say regarding the flagrant disruption of rail transport." The video shows Gumbaridze, in an office, speaking to the camera.

Konarev Harangues Caucasian Rail Bosses

LD0308200590 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Aug 90

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] A festive meeting was held in Moscow today devoted to Railwaymen's Day. This morning, at the Railway Ministry, an all-Union hook-up meeting was held. Transportation and subway workers assembled at

control panels were addressed by the railway minister. Correspondent A Kozhukhova reports:

[Kozhukhova] Unfortunately, Comrade Konarev [railways minister] was forced to state that average daily freight handling, compared with the same period of last year, has decreased by 210 tonnes. Many other important figures have worsened. Seventeen railways, including the Donetsk, Kemerovo, Far East and Azerbaijani railways, have not fulfilled freight hauliage plans since the beginning of the year. In July the railways experienced problems with supplies of fuel, primarily coal. The graph for passenger train traffic is so far not improving. Nonetheless, over seven months, passengers have been provided with service to the tune of more than R280,000. In August, efforts are to be concentrated on the mass forwarding of passengers from places of relaxation, as well as the transportation of freight of the new harvest. Recently, the minister continued, various destablizing factors are negatively affecting the working of the railways.

[video shows hook-up meeting in session; Konarev speaking]

[Konarev] For seven days the Caucasian Railway has not been working. Because of this, the work of neighboring railways suffered. Communication with Georgia was interrupted, and the republic itself found itself paralyzed on a whole railway sector. What results has this led to? Railway transport has lost R13.5 million in income. They are paralyzing traffic and we have to suffer such losses. I have given our lawyers instructions to actuate criminal proceedings, against both workers and the leadership of the Trans-Caucasian Railway. Transport must run, no matter who has what political ambitions or egotistic aspirations! In the final analysis, the law must be employed to avert such acts!

Central Asia

Kirghiz Sovereignty Draft Published 6 Aug

LD0608093190 Moscow TASS in English 0923 GMT 6 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[Text] Frunze August 6 TASS—Today's publication of the draft declaration on the state sovereignty of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic was the all-important event in the republic.

The first article of the declaration proclaims Kighizia as a sovereign socialist multi-ethnic state. Kirghiz make up slightly more than half of the republic's population of 4,000,000. The rest are representatives of the USSR's 80 ethnic groups. Therefore, the multi-ethnic nature of the state takes on immense importance.

The draft proposes that the republic "voluntarily join the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the basis of free self- determination for the people of Kirghizistan as sealed by the Union treaty."

The Kirghiz economy, which is represented by 500 industrial plants and some 300 agricultural enterprises, is firmly linked with the other Union republics. Small gaps in supply or irregularities in work somewhere in Vladivostok or Leningrad directly affect the republic's economy. To insure a normal life to the Kirghiz people, their consolidation with all peoples of the USSR is necessary.

The draft declaration envisages establishing a citizenship of the Kirghiz SSR and, at the same time, guarantees each citizen the right to maintain his or her citizenship of the USSR.

Kirghiz Party Chief Discusses Congress, Republic

LD0608101990 Moscow TASS in English 0914 GMT 6 Aug 90

[By TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Frunze August 6 TASS—Kirghiz Communist Party leader Absamat Masaliyev said here today that the main political result of the 28th Soviet Communist Party Congress was that the party emerged as one.

He noted that purification and renewal began in the CPSU after the congress.

Describing the situation in Kirghizia, he said that the republic has somewhat slowed down the pace of economic development.

The volume of nationl income rose by only 1.8 per cent in the first six months of 1990, nearly 67 per cent less than in the same period of last year. Industrial production is also down.

Masaliyev believes that this situation was largely caused by irregular deliveries from other regions of the Soviet Union: Kirghiz industry heavily depends on the smooth operation of [passage indistinct] independence of Kirghizia within the USSR," Masaliyev emphasised "The importance of this sovereignty was reaffirmed" at the 28th CPSU Congress. People speaking about complete economic independence outside the USSR do not understand that breaking-off relations that have developed over past 70 years will roll the republic back."

Stopping interference in the economic activities of councils and the government, the republican party organisation shifted its main focus to the political sphere.

Masaliyev said the June tragedy in Osh region where the ethnic conflict between Uzbeks and Kirghiz in Uzgen claimed over 200 lives, stemmed not ony from long-standing social and economic problems and mitakes in personnel policy but also from bureaucratic indifference towards people.

He also blamed the work of party and government bodies which lags behind changes in society.

Tension in the republic's south has somewhat eased, Masaliyev said. But migration among the Russian-speaking population is on the rise. There is an outflow of specialists from the region's industrial enterprises.

Russian speakers fear for the safety of their families and mistrust local government bodies.

Therefore, Kirghiz communists are engaged in widespread explanatory work among residents, at industrial enterprises and on collective and state farms.

Members of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee and local legislators went to Osh region. They meet residents in the state of emergency areas every day. "Our task is to renew our fellow citizen's faith in the future," Masaliyev stressed.

Osh Situation 'Still Too Early To Slacken Off'

PM0608101590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Aug 90 Second Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent Yu. Razgulyayev: "Regarding Events in Kirghizia: Too Early To Slacken Off"]

[Text] The reports by the commandant of Osh Oblast, where an emergency situation has been in force for two months now, are becoming calmer. The curfew has been lifted in the city of Sulyukt and in Toktogulskiy Rayon.

The tone of the local press has also become markedly more optimistic. The newspapers report that a plant processing fruit and vegetables in Uzgen, which most suffered from the disorders, has resumed working. The walls of new apartment blocks on a street in Yassy which was almost completely burned down are being quickly erected.

The situation in other population centers is also stabilizing. In Dzhalal-Abad, the publication of the city newspaper in three languages has been established.

However, every day law-enforcement agencies arrest 150-180 persons for breach of curfew. For the time being the population has many weapons in its hands, so it is still too early to slacken off.

Makhramov Addresses Tajik Meeting on Emigration

LD0408084290 Dushanbe Domestic Service in Tajik 1000 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] In the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tajikistan—There is no region in the republic which has not been affected by the alarming increase in migration since the February events in Dushanbe. This was stated by Makhkamov, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Tajikistan Communist Party and chairman of the Tajik SSR Supreme Soviet, during the opening of a conference in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Tajikistan devoted to the issue of migration of the non-Tajik population from the republic.

The composition of the participants in the conference—party, soviet, trade union, and komsomol officials, heads and secretaries of primary party organizations, industrial enterprises, production associations of Dushanbe, republican rayons, republican oblasts, ministries and departments, and reprentatives of the mass media—is evidence of the extent of the severity of the problem in the republic. Figures quoted by Makhkamov truly alarmed the participants. Following the February events, nearly 23,000 people have left the republic. For comparison, the total number of migrants during the same period last year was 6,500. One thousand three hundred doctors and nurses have left the republic. The ministry of construction, ministry of rural construction, ministry of light industry, ministry of communication, [words indistinct] and railways have lost many cadres. Specialist experts are leaving the republic.

As a result production plans are not being implemented. Agreements on goods supply cannot be met. The rhythm of work in enterprises has been ruined. During the first half of the current year, the volume of national income fell by 0.5 percent compared with the same period last year and the volume of industrial production by 2.7 percent.